LIFESTYLE / D1

Grading Lulu Tan Gan, Katrina Goulbourn, Jun Escario in Metrowear series

BUSINESS / B1

Stock market surges to 7-year high

WORLD / A26

7 US funeral directors plead guilty to organ trafficking

NEWS / A4

Former AFP Chief of Staff Senga to chair gov't TV; Sergio Apostol named presidential legal counsel

Japanese war doc admits cutting up live Filipinos

By Mainichi Daily News

AN 84-YEAR-OLD FORMER HIGH-RANKING Japanese military doctor has revealed that he vivisected living people in Mindanao with a military doctor during World War II.

Akira Makino said he cut up live people toward the end of World War II as part of human experiments. He is preparing to speak about his

JAPANESE/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, October 20, 2006 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 314 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Cops in drug buy-bust busted for 'extortion'

By Alcuin Papa

PHILIPPINE DRUG Enforcement Agency (PDEA) chief Dionisio Santiago was foaming in the mouth yesterday after four police officers who were to conduct an

COPS/ A9

Binay wins Round 1 as court issues TRO

Cheers greet 60-day freeze on suspension order

By Armand N. Nocum, Tarra V. Quismundo, Jocelyn R. Uy and Norman Bordadora

BURSTS OF CHEERING ripped the air, couples danced and some wept after the Court of Appeals yesterday stopped Malacañang from enforcing its order suspending Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay from office.

The 60-day temporary restraining order (TRO) issued by the appellate court was the latest blow suffered by Malacañang in its legal confrontation with opposition forces that have challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo's authority.

On the 21st floor of the Makati City Hall, Binay shared with allies his moment of victory, including former Senators Loren Legarda and Rene Saguisag, evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva, members of civil society, militants, and leaders of groups supporting former President Joseph Estrada and the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., whose presidential bid Binay supported in May 2004. *(See story on Page A8.)*

In an eight-page ruling, the court's 13th Division said it found merit in Binay's claim that due process was not followed in his case.

"Wherefore, let a temporary restraining order issue effective for

BINAY / A10

IN THIS CORNER: Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay comes down from his 21st floor fortress to thank his supporters after securing a temporary restraining order against the Palace-issued preventive suspension order. Now the Palace says the Ombudsman can proceed with another case against him.

LUMIN BALAGTAS

Palace hails 'timely' order, denies setback

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Norman Bordadora and Dona Pazzibugan

PREPARING FOR THE WORST, the Armed Forces yesterday placed some 1,500 troops on standby in case they were needed to suppress any outbreak of violence in Makati City.

They were not needed, after all.

Finding redeeming value in its latest court defeat, Malacañang yesterday welcomed the Court of Appeals decision stopping the Arroyo administration from suspending Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

The Palace suggested the ruling doused potential trouble in the standoff at the city hall of Makati, the country's premier financial district.

"We welcome the CA decision. I think it is timely, considering the situation at city hall," said Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

Defensor did not see the TRO as a setback, saying this was all

PALACE/ A10

GMA tells SC justices Cha-cha a must

By Christine O. Avendaño, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Norman Bordadora

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO LAST NIGHT told Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and his foreign counterparts of her administration's determination to make Charter change happen in order to build a modern Philippines.

At the dinner for the delegates to the Global Forum on Liberty and Prosperity held at Malacañang, the President said her administration could only create a modern Philippines by slaying the dragon of politics as usual."

"Politics dominates our lives way out of proportion to the real needs of the people and a change in politics must be accompanied by a change in our system of government."

"To that end, we seek to amend our Constitution so as to modernize if we are to build a modern Philippines."

Global Forum is made up of chief justices, jurists, law experts and members of the law academe from 33 countries.

Its meeting is currently going on until today at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City under the sponsorship of the Philippine Supreme Court.

The President's remarks came amid suspicions that some of the pressure being exerted on the Supreme Court to decide favorably on the people's initiative case to change the Constitution was coming from Malacañang.

This after Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday that the pressure on Panganiban and the other justices of the high court could only be coming from the Palace and the House of Representatives, led by Speaker Jose de Venecia and administration congressmen.

Arroyo made the comment af-

GMA/ A4

Yap not fit to lead DA, says solon

By Philip C. Tubeza

ARTHUR YAP IS "UNFIT" TO BE agriculture secretary and should not have been reappointed to his former post, a party-list lawmaker said yesterday.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said the tax evasion case against Yap and his father might have been dismissed, "but there are far graver issues and more important questions that he has failed to satisfactorily answer," including a graft charge filed by murdered journalist Marlene Esperat.

"Congress should exercise its oversight function to question this appointment," Rosales said.

Malacañang announced on Wednesday night that President Macapagal-Arroyo had appointed Yap, director general of the Presidential Management Staff, to the top post at the Department of Agriculture in place of the yet to be confirmed Domingo Panganiban.

Yap had held the agriculture portfolio from July 9, 2004, to June 30, 2005, when he quit in connection with the tax evasion case that was subsequently dis-

YAP/ A4

17 ABS-CBN execs face 'Wowowee' homicide raps

By Armand N. Nocum

A FIVE-MEMBER PANEL FROM the Department of Justice yesterday recommended that charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and physical injuries be filed against 17 ABS-CBN executives and employees in connection with the deadly stampede in February at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

Those recommended charged included Willie Revillame, host of the noontime game show "Wowowee," Ma. Rosario "Charo" Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN vice president for entertainment; Ma. Socorro Vidanes, senior vice president for television production; Marilou Almaden, executive producer, and Cipriano Luspo, assistant vice president and head of security of the network.

In an 80-page resolution, the investigating panel led by Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera said the stampede on Feb. 4—on the first anniversary of "Wowowee"—was generally caused by negligence on the part of the show organizers.

"It cannot be said that the stampede was a fortuitous event or *force majeure*, or an accident caused by criminal acts or third persons, hence, beyond their control, and for which nobody should be liable," the resolution read in part.

The panel concluded that the show organizers had failed to implement the necessary measures

17 ABS-CBN/ A8

HOUSING FOR POOR

RP's Habitat world's No. 2 home builder

By Volt Contreras

WAY TO GO FOR THIS "VOLUNteer-friendly" shelter program.

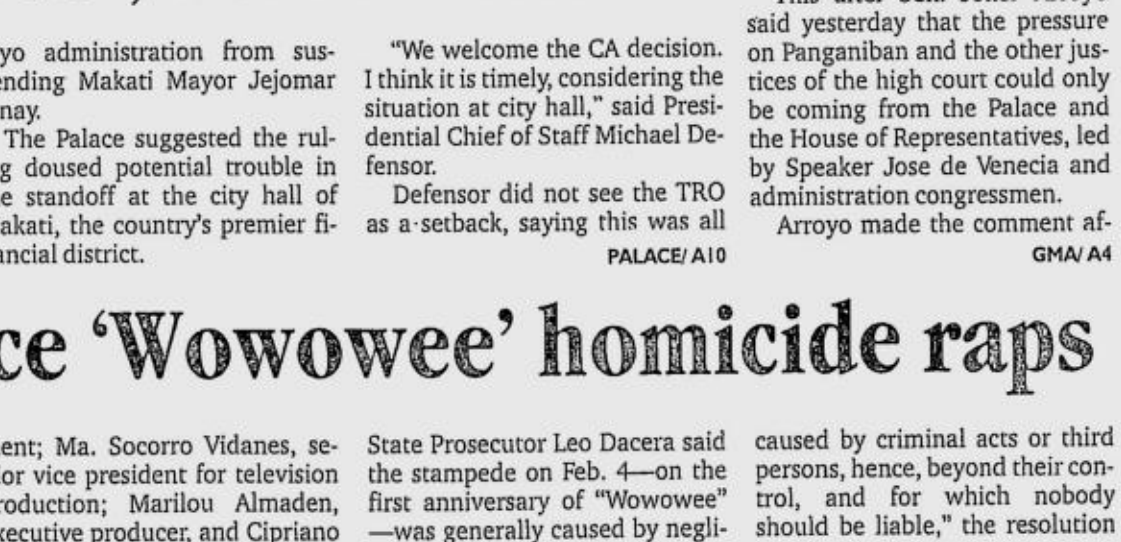
Thanks to its volunteers in white shirts and other committed partners, the Philippine chapter of Habitat for Humanity has become the "No. 2" home builder for the poor out of the over 100 countries now covered by the 30-year-old Christian housing ministry.

HFH-Philippines yesterday said it was able to complete up to 3,500 low-cost housing units in a single year nationwide, making it the biggest Habitat builder "in terms of efficiency and capacity" second only to its US counterpart, which builds 5,000 units.

The group reached this record among the global Habitat affiliates last year, Alberto Jugo, HFHP president and chief executive officer, said at a press conference held yesterday to mark National Shelter Month.

Since Habitat was established in the country in 1988, some 15,000 shelters in well-planned communities—from single-detached bungalows and duplexes to townhouses and medium-rise "condos"—have been made available at affordable rates to former slum dwellers.

RP CHAPTER/ A8



ROBERTO ARENAS married Christine Ochoa on Thursday at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park. His mother Rosemarie "Baby" Arenas and Speaker De Venecia walked him down the aisle. President Arroyo led the power-packed wedding sponsors but romance conquered all. LYN RILLON

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/19/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Insurgency to persist, says general

CAMP ELIAS ANGELES, PILI, CAMARINES Sur—Though the Army was tasked to reduce to insignificance the communist movement, Brig. Gen. Napoleon Malana, commanding officer of the 9th Infantry Division, said that even with the government's renewed campaign, the insurgency would persist.

While saying this, Malawi was clear about what he was ordered to do. He said that the division had the mission of "clearing" within two years 80 villages in Camarines Sur confirmed to be highly influenced by the underground communist movement.

"From January to the present, we have already cleared 20 of the target 80 villages through our special operation teams (SOTs) that have successfully dismantled the communist network," he said.

He displayed a firm grasp of the enemy's approach. "The strategy of the New People's Army in penetrating and controlling the villages is by organizing the youth, women and farmers and then establishing their own sets of officials who control the affairs of the community," he said. As a result, he added, the village chief was left powerless.

Malana said it would take two to three years of organizing by the NPA before a "barangay revolutionary committee (BRC)" could be formed. The BRC, he said, was the de facto authority, becoming the shadow of established authority.

He said a difficult work in the counterinsurgency campaign was "cracking" the insurgency-organized community that fed information to NPA rebels on the movement of government soldiers.

Malana said the NPA had established 15 "fronts" in the Bicol region and had about 600 to 700 armed combatants. *Juan Escandor Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Abalos: 'Techies' to decide fate of automated polls

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS FAR AS THE COMMISSION on Elections is concerned, whether or not there will be partially automated elections next year depends on a panel of experts that is set to meet this morning.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said the "advisory council" would determine the feasibility of implementing computer-assisted voting in the May 2007 midterm elections, in the wake of the anticipated enactment of the poll automation bill next month.

"I still don't know if automated elections will happen," Abalos told the INQUIRER. "That's why I'm calling for a meeting with the advisory council so we'll know if we could have them next year."

Abalos said the council is composed of at least seven "experts" from the Department of Science and Technology, the University of the Philippines, the government's information technology department and a computer society.

The meeting is set for 9:30 a.m.

Abalos appeared to be deferring to the advisory council after Sen. Richard Gordon criticized him for "laying the predicate" for the non-implementation of the automation bill next year.

"What I don't understand is why Senator Gordon keeps on attacking me when it's not for me to determine if automated elections are possible given the time constraints," Abalos said.

Gordon, the author of the Senate version of the poll automation bill, had earlier called on Abalos to resign.

He had suggested the Comelec chief preferred to use the automated counting machines of the Mega Pacific Consortium, whose contract to supply the poll agency with ACMs was voided by the Supreme Court. Those machines now lie in storage in a Manila warehouse.

Abalos yesterday appeared reluctant to implement the automation bill in case it was enacted.

He pointed out the bill demands a special kind of computer that would have to be manufactured specifically for Philippine elections.

Quoting the Comelec's "technical people," he said the machines currently available use the "touch system" which would require massive education for its users.

"This is the first constraint," he said. "We also have to conduct a bidding before having to deal with the constraints on the manufacture and delivery of the machines."

Abalos said he also didn't know which phase of the election process would be automated, whether it would be the voting, counting, transmission, or canvassing of votes.

He questioned why it took Gordon and the other lawmakers two years to come up with the automation bill.

"He had six months in 2004 and the whole of 2005 to work on this," Abalos said, referring to Gordon. "The bill wasn't finished despite this long period and now he is angry with me?"

Flunkers, not cheaters, are on 'retake' list

BAGUIO CITY—THE LOCAL NURSING community, including the graduates who exposed the cheating in the June board exams, said the examinees who are now compelled to retake the test were not the cheaters but the flunkers.

Some of the whistle-blowers' names turned up in the list of the 1,678 examinees ordered by the Professional Regulation Commission to retake Tests III and V of the exams.

Ryan Manzano, one of the Baguio examinees, said his score of 77.6 "was not even borderline," so his inclusion in the "retake" list came as a shock.

"I was surprised to discover my name there, but the PRC would not tell me how they came up with the list, so I complained," he said.

The situation prompted the local Philippine Nurses Association chapter to demand an explanation from the government. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Vasectomy making T'boli a vanishing tribe

By Aquiles Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

T'BOLI, SOUTH Cotabato — Vasectomies are now in vogue among the men of the T'boli tribe in this town.

Based on Provincial Health Office records, 239 T'boli men underwent vasectomies between January and October this year.

The municipal health office of T'boli, a town with a population of about 60,000, first introduced the procedure to local residents in 2002 as part of its family planning and population control program.

Arsenio Liwa, a T'boli with nine children, said this was the only way to control the growth of his families.

Polygamous

Liwa works as a "*habal-habal*" (motorcycle transport) driver to support two families. Polygamy is practiced by T'bolis.

His first wife has a small *sari-sari* store, while the other is a house manager.

He said he was being practical when he underwent a vasectomy. He said he had to do something to be able to feed his family and send his children to school.

Some tribal leaders, however, are against the promotion of the vasectomy procedure by the government, fearing this would lead to their extinction.

"*Ayaw naming kapunin ang mga lalaki sa tribu naming kasi baka dumating ang araw na mawala ang tribu naming*(We don't want our men 'castrated' because the day may come our tribe would disappear)," said Tabong Sugan.

Vanishing tribe

For Datu Doke Lugan, "*Di namin maintindihan bakit ginagawa nila ito sa amin. Kapon sila ng kapon. Baka dumating ang araw maubos o maglaho ang aming tribu*(We can't understand why they are doing this to us. They keep 'castrating' us. The day might come there won't be anyone of us left)."

Other T'boli males refused to undergo a vasectomy for fear it would reduce their libido.

But Daniel Belmeniza, one among the Christian residents who underwent the procedure, said this was a misconception. He said he was as sexually active as before.

Belmeniza said he decided to undergo a vasectomy after nine children. He said his wife was pregnant every year. Now, he said, he can enjoy sex with his wife without having to worry about the consequence.

In a vasectomy, the vas deferens or tube through which sperm passes is cut, preventing procreation. It is different from castration where a man's testes are removed.

Pro-life solons want 'morning-after' pills banned

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PRO-LIFE CONTINGENT IN THE HOUSE of Representatives has begun a renewed push for congressional approval of a bill seeking to ban the sale of what the religious lobby in the country considers to be abortive drugs like the "morning-after" pill, "abortive" herbal potions and even oral contraceptives.

Party-list Rep. Christian Seńeres urged Congress to pass his House Bill 4643, or the "Anti-Abortive Drugs and Devices Act," which has the strong support of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

"We are not trying to impose our religious views here. There's a public interest involved and, as policy makers, it is our job duty to ensure safety," said Seńeres, a member of the Buhay party-list group which has ties with the El Shaddai Catholic charismatic group.

"Everyone understands that the Constitution prohibits the killing of a human fetus. In furtherance of this mandate, we seek to protect human life at its very beginning which is the fertilized ovum or embryo," he said.

Seńeres is a member of the pro-life caucus in the House that counts about 30 members, including Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra, Parańaque Rep. Ed Zialcita, and Batangas Rep. Hermilando Mandanas.

Standing up for life

Last week, Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto hailed members of the caucus for standing up for pro-life values at a press conference at the CBCP building in Manila.

But Seńeres maintained that there was no active religious lobby for the bill at work in Congress.

The House committee on the revision of laws had held two hearings on HB 4643.

If passed into law, the bill would ban what it says are "abortive drugs" like oral contraceptives Prostaglandis, and Antiprogesterones, the so-called morning-after pills misoprostol, levonorgestrel, levonorgestrel 2, Evra, and Depo Provera.

It would also ban intra-uterine devices (IUDs) and "manual vacuum aspirators" which the bill says are "abortive devices."

HB 4643 would require all drug manufacturers to "label all abortive drugs or chemicals they produce," indicating that such drugs are "'abortifacient' or have 'abortifacient potential.'"

"Some of these not only cause the termination of human life in the womb. It is also very, very risky to the life of the mother. To be pro-life is to be pro-women by trying to protect mothers," Seńeres said.

"There are so many untold stories of pregnancies which end up not just with the unborn being terminated but also with the mother being killed. It is a health risk," he added.

According to Seńeres, recent studies have shown that up to 100,000 women die every year from unsafe abortions, "which in certain instances were induced through self-administered drugs or illicitly by medical professionals."

He said a visiting US lay Catholic leader, Winifred Powers, was surprised to see that "abortive herbal potions," popularly known as "*pampa-regla*" (menstruation-inducing drugs) were being sold on the sidewalks outside Quiapo Church in Manila.

He said Powers, a pro-life advocate and founder of Rosary for Life, also saw some Morning-after pills being sold by vendors outside the church.

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Senga to head gov't TV; Apostol is GMA legal counsel

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

IT APPEARS FORMER ARMED Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Generoso Senga is being primed to head the state broadcasting company.

A top Malacañang official yesterday said Senga's appointment as chair of the National Broadcasting Network (NBN-4) was part of the major overhaul being planned by President Macapagal-Arroyo in the Presidential Communications Group (PCG).

The move is expected to further consolidate Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's control of the state propaganda machine, said the official, who asked not to be named so as not to preempt the announcement.

The official said Senga—a former AFP spokesperson who served as chief of staff from August 2005 to July 2006—would likely be given broad powers to run NBN-4.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confirmed that Senga was up for a new appointment. But he said he did not know exactly where Senga would be assigned.

Also yesterday, Ermita announced the appointment of Sergio Apostol—a Leyte congressman in 1992-2001 and member of the prosecution team in then President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial at the Senate—as the President's chief legal counsel.

The post has been vacant since Eduardo Nachura was appointed solicitor general in February.

Not the first time

Malacañang is beefing up its legal team in preparation for court battles ahead, including the debate on Charter change.

Ermita defended the latest changes in the Cabinet, saying it was not the first time the President had reshuffled her officials.

He made the remark in response to criticism by some quarters of the reappointment of Arthur Yap as agriculture secretary, replacing Domingo Panganiban. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Explaining the reshuffle, Ermita cited the case of Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes who, he said, was initially appointed defense secretary upon his retirement from the military service.

Reyes, who was also AFP chief of staff, was next appointed interior secretary, until he replaced Michael Defensor as environment secretary. (Defensor is now Ms Arroyo's chief of staff.)

Ermita also cited the case of Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, who was previously president of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities and Management Corp.

"A reshuffle is normal, you know," Ermita told reporters. He said it was Ms Arroyo who determined whether there was a need for one—"when she feels that it will enhance the implementation of certain programs in progress."

"She thinks that maybe we can shift positions so that the implementation would be faster," he said, adding that it was Ms Arroyo's prerogative to choose those whom she believes would be able to help her.

Panganiban

Asked if Panganiban, who had expressed surprise at the swiftness of his appoinmentt as lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, was consulted on the change, Ermita replied in the affirmative.

"He knew about the reshuffle," Ermita said, denying that Panganiban's new position was a demotion.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President's guiding principle in moving her people around was "good governance through the individual and collective performance of the Cabinet and the national agencies."

"The changes in the Cabinet are meant to follow the strategic pace of reforms and programs she wants to be in place at the soonest possible time," Bunye said in a statement.

Consolidate gov't media

NBN-4 is expected to regain its autonomy with Ms Arroyo's plan to abolish the Government Mass Media Group (GMMG), which had taken control of the management of state broadcast stations NBN-4, RPN-9 and IBC-13, state radio dzRB, the Bureau of Communication Services and the Philippine News Agency.

Cerge Remonde, the first and only chair of the GMMG, was named chief of the Presidential Management Staff, replacing Yap.

Bunye confirmed that the GMMG would be abolished and that the President would soon issue an executive order detailing her new strategy for the government's communication arm.

"Whatever moves there are, the objectives are administrative simplicity and efficiency. Various configurations will come out with the EO. What is important is that we will operate as a group," Bunye said.

Yap not fit . . .

From page A1

missed for insufficient evidence.

Rosales said Yap's confirmation by the Commission on Appointments should be deferred pending investigation of the case filed by Esperat in 2004 involving a purported P432-million fertilizer scam when Yap was administrator of the National Food Authority, and for the alleged bungled importation in 2002 of P5.8 billion worth of rice from India when he was head of Philippine International Trading Corp.

"With these stark instances of incompetence behind him, why is Yap being reassigned to the DA? He is unfit for the position and still needs to explain his culpability, through a possible legislative inquiry, for the rice deal and the fertilizer scam," the lawmaker said.

'Obviously political'

Rosales also demanded to know why Panganiban was being replaced as agriculture secretary.

"[Panganiban] enjoys widespread respect at the least for being a no-nonsense apolitical bureaucrat, and his tenure has so far been quiet," she said. "So why is the steady boat being rocked with this unnecessary and obviously political move?"

Sen. Edgardo Angara also said the replacement of Panganiban at the DA and his transfer to the National Anti-Poverty Commission smacked of Malacañang's "lack of basic courtesy" toward members of its own team.

But Angara said the dismissal was more a loss to the government than to Panganiban's career: "I was dismayed and greatly disappointed, but I felt more sorry for the government than for [him] because he is one of the most knowledgeable and extremely capable in the agriculture sector. He is a great loss to our government."

The senator added that the replacement of competent officials like Panganiban showed why the Philippines was continually losing its competitiveness in the global market.

Angara admitted that he was among those who had recommended Panganiban for the agriculture portfolio.

He said his friend had served as his No. 1 undersecretary when he was DA chief during the Estrada administration.

He pointed out that Panganiban had been a career agriculture professional since the Marcos era and had an impeccable record.

"He was my operations man and, during my tenure at the DA, we had a record growth rate specifically in rice production. When he was agriculture secretary in 2005, agriculture growth was also high, and those records were not accidental," Angara said.

Suspicious

Militant groups saw something suspicious in Yap's reappointment to the DA.

"Malacañang needs Yap to orchestrate another scam, bigger than the P728-million Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) fertilizer fund scam," said Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the farmers' alliance Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, in reference to the purported use of fertilizer funds for Ms Arroyo's election in 2004.

"The funds to look out for are the seeds fund for the GMA program and the P3.5 billion worth of rice to be imported, supposedly for schoolchildren," Ramos said.

The rice farmers' group R1 said it appeared that Malacañang had merely used Panganiban to allow Yap's tax evasion case to cool down.

"The farmers do not see a new beginning for the agriculture sector," said Jessica Reyes Cantos, R1 lead convenor.

Cantos said that for a change, Ms Arroyo could do the farmers a favor by appointing an agriculture secretary for his/her commitment to improve the farmers' livelihood, and not his/her political affiliation. *With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Christine A. Gaylican*

Yap to reduce gov't subsidy for fertilizers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TO GET MORE BANG FOR THE buck, newly reappointed Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap is planning to cut the government subsidy for fertilizers and seeds in favor of more investments in high-impact projects, like farm-to-market roads and post-harvest and irrigation facilities.

"The process must begin regarding the rationalization of soft support programs that deal with fertilizers and inputs," said Yap, who will retain his post as President Macapagal-Arroyo's point man in the north Luzon "super region."

"Fertilizers and inputs are hard to monitor, while infrastructure programs can be easily evaluated for accomplishment and impact," he said. "In terms of transparency and accountability, hard infrastructure projects are also easier to monitor and evaluate."

Aside from failing to significantly cut production costs, the Arroyo administration's ongoing program to distribute fertilizers and seedlings has been marred by controversy, such as the fertilizer fund scam involving former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, where money intended for farm inputs was supposedly diverted for election purposes.

According to Yap, most farmers and fisherfolk preferred that the government devote scarce resources to building infrastructure that would improve their access to markets, multiply their harvest seasons, improve product quality, and cut down on spoilage, instead of pouring billions of pesos into fertilizer and seedling subsidies.

He said the Department of Agriculture's programs and funds should be "concentrated on building hard infrastructure for our farmers and fisherfolk."

"It is state investments in [hard infrastructure], and not in inputs, where agriculture assistance is most needed and most lacking. We cannot and must not presume to know more about what is good for our producers and the private sector," he said.

Yap cited as an example the projects being implemented in north Luzon—the P1.78-billion Halsema Highway (89.5 kilometers) and the P1.37-billion Bontoc-Tabuk-Tuguegarao road (97.8 km), which are expected to cut travel time between Manila and Luzon's salad bowl, thus allowing highland farmers to get better prices for their produce.

GMA tells SC justices Charter change a must

From page A1

ter Panganiban himself had admitted feeling "some pressure" from those interested in seeing the Charter changed to allow for a unicameral-parliamentary form of government.

The Palace and the House yesterday had both strongly denied the allegations as did other proponents of the people's initiative or a signature campaign to change the Constitution.

"We respect [its] independence, but we also believe the Supreme Court will act on this petition with justice in accordance with law and in the best public interest," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Arroyo, who had argued the Senate's opposition to the people's initiative during the hearing in the high tribunal, said groups against the people's initiative had no power to exert pressure on the Supreme Court.

Ten of the 15 members of the high court are appointees of President Arroyo.

Panganiban on Wednesday admitted to feeling pressure, but said this would not affect the independence of the court, which, he added, would resolve the matter by the end of next week.

De Venecia denied the House was pressuring the Supreme Court.

"We don't know of any congressman who is talking or exerting any pressure," De Venecia said.

He told the INQUIRER that such a move would prove futile because the members of the House "will be rebuffed by the justices."

De Venecia, the brains behind the planned shift to a unicameral-parliamentary system, described the 15-member high court as "supremely independent."

"The justices from years back are immune to pressure. As a matter of fact, I am attending their session tomorrow because I was invited by Chief Justice Panganiban to be their last keynote speaker," said De Venecia. He will speak today at the Global Forum meet.

"The pressure could only come from the proponents of Cha-cha, meaning Malacañang and the House, but the public can be assured that the Supreme Court will decide the case with utmost integrity, independence and erudition as the court had shown in its past decisions," Senator Arroyo said.

Bunye insisted that the Palace was leaving the decision on the fate of the people's initiative to the "sound judgment" of the high court.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that what Panganiban could be saying was that it could not be avoided if some people were interested in the decision of the high court.

"It cannot be helped if people start asking them what might be the [outcome] of their deliberation," Ermita told reporters. "Because this is really a very, very important case, a milestone case."

Sigaw ng Bayan

Lawyer Raul Lambino of Sigaw ng Bayan, the citizens' group that gathered the signatures for the people's initiative, said the group was not putting any pressure on the justices.

"Definitely, it didn't come from [us]," Lambino said.

He said the pressure may have been about the high court having to come out with a decision soon.

Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) had asked the Supreme Court to uphold the petition for a people's initiative to amend the Constitution.

The Commission on Elections had earlier rejected the request of Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap to authenticate the millions of signatures they said they had gathered petitioning for a shift from the bicameral-presidential to the unicameral-parliamentary system.

The two groups had also asked the Comelec to schedule a plebiscite on the constitutional changes that would allow Ms Arroyo to remain in power until 2010.

The Comelec had said it had no authority to recognize the petition for a people's initiative until a law had been passed by Congress implementing the people's initiative system. It also noted that revising the Constitution could not be achieved though a people's initiative.

OneVoice

Critics led by the OneVoice civic group had asked the court to junk the petition, saying that Republic Act No. 6735, or The Initiative and Referendum Act, was not sufficient to allow the exercise of a people's initiative.

Even assuming that RA 6735 was a sufficient enabling law, the scope of a people's initiative was limited to amendments and did not extend to revisions of the Constitution, according to OneVoice.

Christian Monsod, a convenor of OneVoice, said it was improper for any party to try to influence the Supreme Court.

"We thank the Chief Justice for his candor in affirming all of these rumors on pressures being brought to bear on our justices," Monsod, a former Comelec chair and a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, told the INQUIRER.

Monsod said the justices would be judged by history when they decide on the constitutionality of the initiative mode to change the Constitution.

"As defenders of the Constitution, the justices will view this case in terms of how it affects our people beyond the political impasse of today," he said.

Too close to call

Sen. Edgardo Angara earlier said the people's initiative case could be "too close to call."

But Angara said he was more confident yesterday that the petition would be junked. "It's veering toward the denial of the people's initiative because the justices have listened and closely studied all the arguments," he said.

Angara said the Supreme Court was not likely to give its nod to the initiative that would pave the way for the revision of the Charter, which is beyond the scope of a people's initiative.

He said the court would not favor canceling the 2007 election, abolishing the Senate and even curtailing the powers of the judiciary as proposed in the Charter changes advocated by Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap.

"Given all this time for recollection, I believe the court is now veering toward a rejection of the petition," Angara said.

Name names

At the House, opposition lawmakers urged Panganiban to divulge the identities of the people pressuring the Supreme Court in the people's initiative case.

Cibac party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva said the Chief Justice should identify those pressuring the court so they could be held liable for meddling with the high court's affairs.

"These people should not only be cited for contempt but should be criminally charged for their disgusting actuation," he said.

Deputy Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said the Chief Justice should be more forthcoming to dispel any doubts about its independence before the high court comes out with its ruling.

"If the court demands transparency from the cases it tries, why should the Chief Justice hold himself to a lower standard?" Remulla said. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Philip C. Tubeza*

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DEL CASTILLO: He had "a good name."

Int'l reporters slam Mike A for libel spree

PARIS-BASED REPORTERS WITHOUT BORders Thursday condemned First Gentleman Mike Arroyo for "hounding" the media with a string of libel suits filed against 43 journalists.

It said arrest warrants issued Monday against eight journalists employed by the Malaya newspaper were "the latest stage in this outrageous harassment." "Reporters Without Borders condemns this hounding by Jose Miguel Arroyo, which is eroding press freedom in the Philippines," the media group said in a statement released in Manila yesterday.

"Even though the spouse of the head of state has no political mandate, he is nevertheless very influential in the country and several of his friends are very highly placed officials," it said.

Arroyo has filed 43 complaints against journalists, editors and publishers seeking a total of 70 million pesos (1.4 million dollars) in damages.

Most of the stories concern alleged corruption and electoral fraud involving the president and her husband.

Arroyo's spokeswoman, Juris Soliman, denied the libel suits were intended to muzzle the media.

She said the articles were written with malice.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) said in a statement Arroyo was using the country's "outdated laws to muzzle a critical press." *AFP*

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Del Castillo, PDI top libel lawyer; 65

TOMAS "TOM" DEL CASTILLO, A SENIOR partner of the Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio,Calma & Carbonell law office, died Wednesday at the age of 65.

Del Castillo, a graduate of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines (Class 1962), was the leading libel lawyer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer before he got sick and had to go into retirement. He won in the lower courts about 98 percent of the libel cases of the INQUIRER that he and his associates handled. Two cases are still on appeal before higher courts.

The Asia Pacific Legal 500, a book on the outstanding lawyers and law firms of Asia, lists Del Castillo among the top 500 Filipino lawyers in media and telecommunications, along with the likes of Enrique Belo, Felipe Gozon and Roberto Lucila.

It also lists Del Castillo among the top 500 Filipino lawyers in litigation and arbitration, together with the likes of Estelito Mendoza, Mario Ongkiko, Fortunato Gupit, Eduardo de los Angeles, Alexander Poblador and Saklolo Leano.

Defense of INQUIRER

The book cited the Ortega law firm's defense of the INQUIRER in a prominent case filed by the Iglesia ni Cristo regarding stories on the Edsa Tres riots and said, "Tomas del Castillo has a good name."

Del Castillo was a past master of the Hiram (Masonic) Lodge No. 88. He and his wife were actively involved in Retrouvaille, a program designed to heal troubled marriages. He was also an active member of the Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity of UP.

He is survived by his wife Ruby and children Nicolo, Dino, Dennis, Tanya, Yuvshenka, Santino and Martino.

His body lies at the Nacional Memorial Homes on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Interment has been scheduled for Oct. 24 at the Himlayang Pilipino on Tandang Sora Avenue in Quezon City.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, October 20, 2006
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 1:11-14
Gospel: Luke 12:1-7

Such a numerous crowd had gathered that they crushed one another. Then Jesus spoke to his disciples in this way,

"Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered that will not be uncovered, or hidden that will not be made known. Whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in daylight, and what you have whispered in hidden places, will be proclaimed from the housetops.

I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who put to death the body and after that can do no more. But I will tell you whom to fear: Fear the One who after killing you is able to throw you into hell. This one you must fear. Don't you get five sparrows for two pennies? Yet not one of them has been forgotten by God. Even the hairs of your head have been numbered. So do not fear: are you not worth more than a flock of sparrows?"

Commentary

We are God's own, chosen to reveal God's glory, and to live in hope with Christ. This is the message of truth we have been given and stamped with the seal of the Spirit. Do our lives reveal the glory of God?

And this is what the crowds are hungering for: the truth and integrity of the Word of Jesus who warns them against hypocrisy. We must be fearless, speak truly and not fear what others might do to us, and remember that our God counts every hair on our head and we are worth so much to God—with Jesus.

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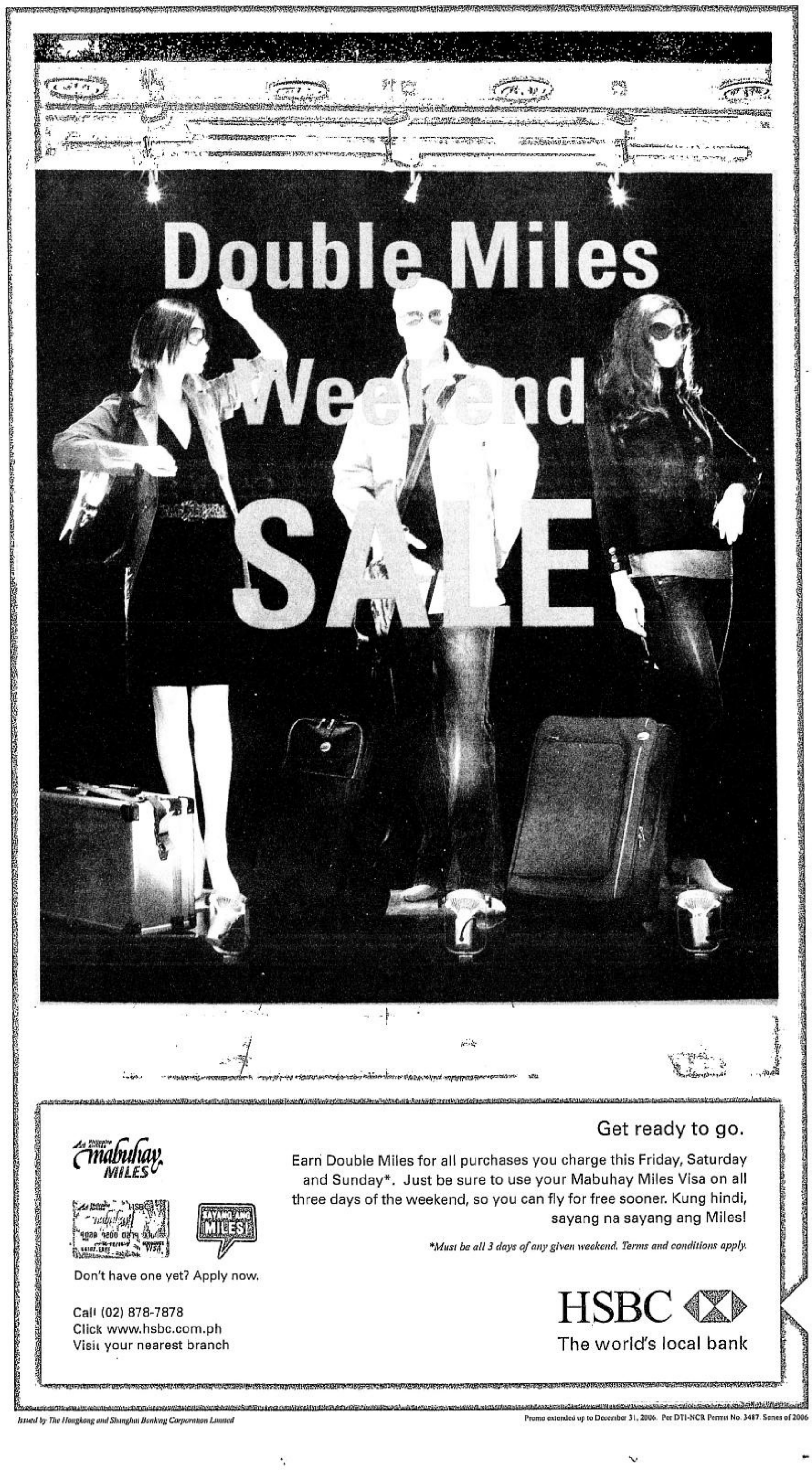

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2. Customers should fill up the raffle coupon with Name, Address, Telephone Number, E-mail Address, Invoice Number and Signature and drop their raffle stubs in drop boxes located at the Yupangco Building, 339, Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, any MusicSpot Outlet, Perfect Pitch Store and Yamaha Music Store nationwide on or before October 31, 2006.
3. Raffle stubs are non-transferable.
4. All Drop Boxes will be sealed and forwarded to the G. A. Yupangco & Co., Inc. Head Office on or before November 2, 2006.
5. Raffle prizes are as follows:
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12. Winners will be advised by registered mail and telephone, and should present at least two (2) valid identification cards, the accompanying sales invoice and raffle stub when claiming their prizes.
13. Prizes could be claimed at the 3rd Floor, Yupangco Building, 339 Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.
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PALACE ASEC
President Macapagal-Arroyo swears in Ferdinand Cui Jr. as assistant secretary of the Presidential Management Staff in ceremonies held recently at Malacañang. Looking on are Solicitor General Eduardo Nachura and Ms Ferylou Cui. An economist and a career executive under the Office of the President, Cui was head of the Cabinet Affairs Group prior to his latest appointment. He holds the distinction of topping both the Foreign Service Officers Exam and the MHTB exam for career executives in 2001. A native of Catbalogan, Samar, he was educated at UP Diliman and the London School of Economics.

IPU takes up cudgels for 6 party-list solons

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION received a stinging rebuke from an international assembly of parliamentarians for prosecuting the "Batasan 6," calling the filing of rebellion charges against the militant lawmakers "a grave attack against parliament itself."

At the conclusion of its 115th assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland, on Oct. 16-18, the Interparliamentary Union (IPU) Governing Council unanimously adopted a strongly worded resolution expressing its "deep concern" over the plight of the party-list representatives.

It also called for the immediate release of one of them, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, who has been under hospital arrest at the Philippine Heart Center for almost eight months now.

"It feels most assuring and heartwarming to know that I have the support not only of my colleagues ... here in the Philippines, but also the support of colleagues and fellow progressive lawmakers in other countries," Beltran said in a statement from detention.

The six lawmakers were implicated in the foiled coup attempt in February. Yesterday, they hailed the IPU resolution as a "major victory."

"This is vindication for us," said Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo who, along with Rep. Teddy Casiño, attended the Geneva assembly.

"With this public decision, the IPU is sending a strong message to the Arroyo regime that its undemocratic and repressive acts have no place in any modern representative democracy. This is an international embarrassment that Ms Arroyo and her henchmen can undo by releasing Ka Bel (Beltran) and dropping the ridiculous rebellion cases against us," Ocampo said in a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER.

The Governing Council is the policy-making body of the IPU, the organization of parliaments of sovereign states. It was formed in 1889 and today has a membership of more than 140 national parliaments from all over the world.

The IPU resolution said the rebellion cases filed against Ocampo, Casiño, Beltran and party-list Representatives Joel Virador, Liza Maza and Rafael Mariano "suggests the persons concerned are prosecuted on the basis of considerations alien to law."

The body was "deeply concerned" their prosecution "attempts to criminalize legally authorized political parties ... and the parliamentary work of their representatives."

Calling the freedoms of expression and assembly the "cornerstones of democracy," the IPU said the prosecution of the Batasan 6 "constitutes a grave attack on parliament itself and should therefore be of concern to the parliamentary authorities."

It said it remained "deeply concerned" over the continuing detention of Beltran, "which it fears is arbitrary; and calls once again on the authorities to release him forthwith or at the very least to transfer him to the custody of the House of Representatives."

An IPU committee worked for three months on the resolution, investigating the issue of the Batasan 6.

No bullets, amulets in luggage, please

By Nikko Dizon

AUTHORITIES CONfiscate bullet-amulets from Filipino travelers almost everyday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) despite repeated announcements that bringing such items through aviation security could get one into real trouble.

"It's prohibited. But Filipinos are hardheaded," says the country's top police aviation security official.

Everyday, we have at least one or two apprehensions," Chief Supt. Andres Caro II, Aviation Security Group (ASG) director, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Carrying live bullets or even slugs in handcarried bags are prohibited by international aviation rules. Caro warned violators that they can be arrested, jailed, and even prosecuted in the Philippines and in their foreign destinations if they continue to ignore the rules.

"The penalty is even harsher abroad," he warned. Violators could be jailed and fined especially if it is shown that there is an intentional disregard for the law," Caro added.

Filipino travelers have a penchant for bringing *anting-anting* or amulets, some of them made of bullet slugs, believed to ward off evil spirits or bad luck.

Another aviation police official acknowledged that there was a security lapse at the Naia involving the Philippine UN Peacekeeping Force to East Timor when one of its members was allowed through, then was briefly detained in Singapore for carrying five live bullets in her hand carried bag.

"We're conducting an investigation into the incident," said Supt. Pablo Francisco Balagtas, head of the ASG unit overseeing security at the Naia international terminals.

Balagtas said he would also bring the matter to the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters in Camp Crame.

"They should be aware of the rules, especially since the members of the peacekeeping force are representatives of our country," Balagtas said.

Balagtas said it was "negligence" on the part of the PNP policewoman when she brought live bullets in her hand carried baggage.

History lecture in Tacloban

ACADEMICIAN AND short story writer Dr. Resil B. Mojares will deliver the keynote lecture at the Philippine National Historical Society's 27th National Conference on National and Local History on Oct. 26-28 at the Leyte Normal University (LNU) in Tacloban City.

Mojares will speak on "Theorizing Local Histories" at the conference jointly sponsored by the LNU, National Commission for Culture and the Arts-Committee on Historical Research, Philippine Social Science Council, and Peace Development Fund.

"The Colonial Odyssey of Leyte (1521-1914)" by Dr. Rolando O. Borrinaga and the late Fr. Cantius J. Kobak, OFM, a translation of the 1914 book "Reseña de la Provincia de Leyte" by Manuel Artigas y Cuerva, will also be launched at the conference.

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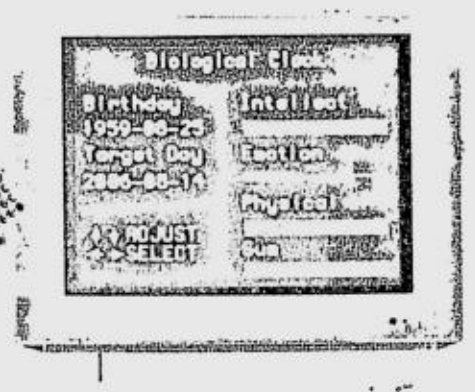

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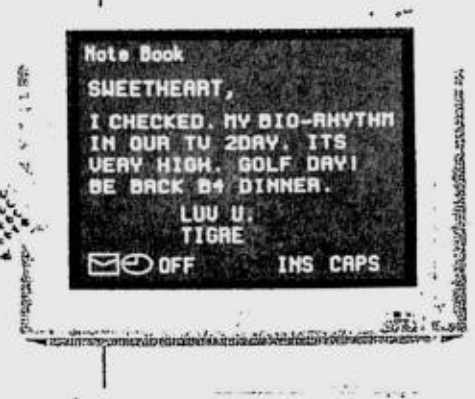

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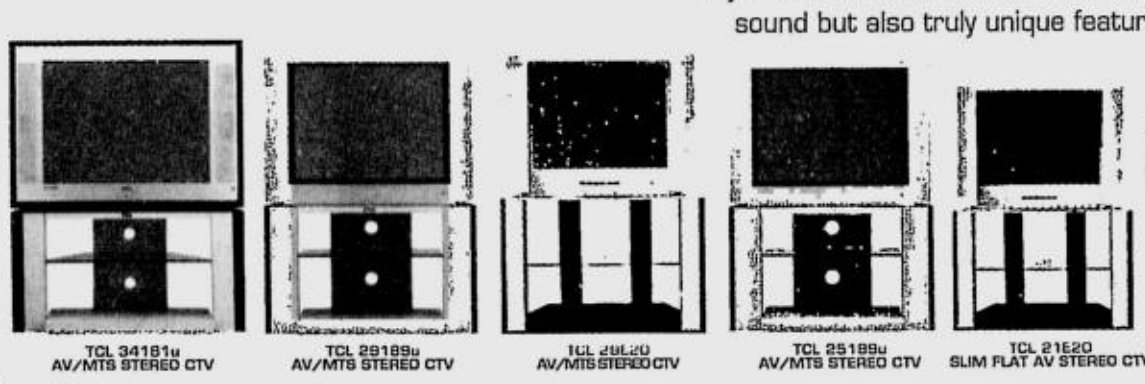


TCL
My New Favourite

RP's Habitat world's No. 2 home builder

From page A1

The antipoverty movement has also turned office workers or students into builders who rely mainly on their bare hands to put up the walls and foundations of houses in Habitat neighborhoods.

Jimmy Carter in Cavite

A Habitat project in Maragondon, Cavite, in March 1999, saw former US President Jimmy Carter sweating it out with other volunteers, foreigners and Filipinos alike, including from the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

HFH International, based in Americus, Georgia, in the United States, is a nonprofit ecumenical mission founded in 1976 by Millard Fuller and his wife Linda. Worldwide, it has since built more than 200,000 homes for about a million people.

In the Philippines, Habitat projects have spread to 20 provinces and 29 cities, creating more than 100 new communities from the slums of Metro Manila to the coastal shanties of Mindanao.

The projects have "transformed lives" not only of dirt-poor informal settlers but also of salary-earners, like teachers, policemen and government employees who could not otherwise afford decent housing, Jugo said.

From today's 15,000 homes, HFH-Philippines is targeting a total of 50,000 units by 2011, he said.

Far from being dole-outs, Habitat houses are sold to the "home partners"—or beneficiaries—at no profit. The payments are affordable, zero-interest, inflation-adjusted mortgage loans.

Sweat equity

Under its "house-for-house" principle, payments made by a home partner go to a trust fund that is then made available to another beneficiary, and so on.

In addition to an initial down payment representing one-third of the cost of the house (usually P60,000), the homeowner must invest hours of physical labor—a concept called "sweat equity"—in building his or her house and those of others.

It is during the construction phase that partner corporations, schools and

JM TUMAO PUNZALAN

THE GOOD NEWS from national board of trustees member Erlynn B. Campos is that Philippine Habitat is next only to the United States as the most efficient builder of homes for the poor out of 100 countries covered by the Christian housing ministry.

organizations—both local and foreign—sponsor affordable materials and an army of volunteer builders.

Habitat is unique because it is a housing program that is on the lookout for the latest building technology, partly to make construction as "volunteer friendly" as possible, according to Jugo.

The use of interconnecting blocks—rather than the traditional hollow blocks—makes for a less-taxing but still professional job even for the untrained volunteer, he said.

The material is so easy to handle that "it is like putting together Lego," especially when the volunteers include musclemen from the military or police, he said.

Habitat home designs have also adopted steel frames for roofs for a more durable structure that is also "cheaper in the long run."

Values

But the mission doesn't stop the day the houses are occupied. An equally crucial aspect of developing Habitat communities is the promotion of personal and communal values among the residents that could finally break the cycle of poverty.

Livelihood programs are introduced to better improve their incomes—and their capacity to pay their mortgage. A "culture of savings" is promoted.

"We want parents to consider it a crime not to send their children to school. We want their daughters to feel safe when they walk home at night the moment they enter the vicinity," Jugo said.

"For a community must first be organized and eager to be good neighbors or else it would be difficult to build for them," he said.

A woman's tears in hour of victory

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IN A PRAYER SERVICE FOR MAYOR Jejomar Binay last night, evangelist Eddie Villanueva revived talk about the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

"[The bible said] do not rebel from the governing authority. At first glance, one would see that Mayor Binay is rebelling against a sitting President. But this only applies to a duly-constituted, duly-elected authority," Villanueva said.

"The initial victory of Mayor Binay and those who support him should continue," he said.

Villanueva then led a pray-over for the mayor and invoked the heavens to continue giving Binay the strength and courage to pursue the opposition's cause.

In an earlier Mass at the mayor's office, Binay's wife of 33 years, Elenita, was seen shedding tears after receiving communion.

That was shortly after the mayor's camp confirmed news that the appellate court had granted Binay's plea for a temporary restraining order against a Malacañang directive suspending him from office.

Price of victory

Asked about the court order, Mrs. Binay, a doctor and also a former Makati mayor, said:

"It was a combination of sadness and happiness. Then again, when there is no hardship, there is no victory."

She said she and her family, who had made Binay's office library their temporary home, could only heave a sigh of relief. Now, the family could finally go home.

"We could rest now. It has been tiring," she said.

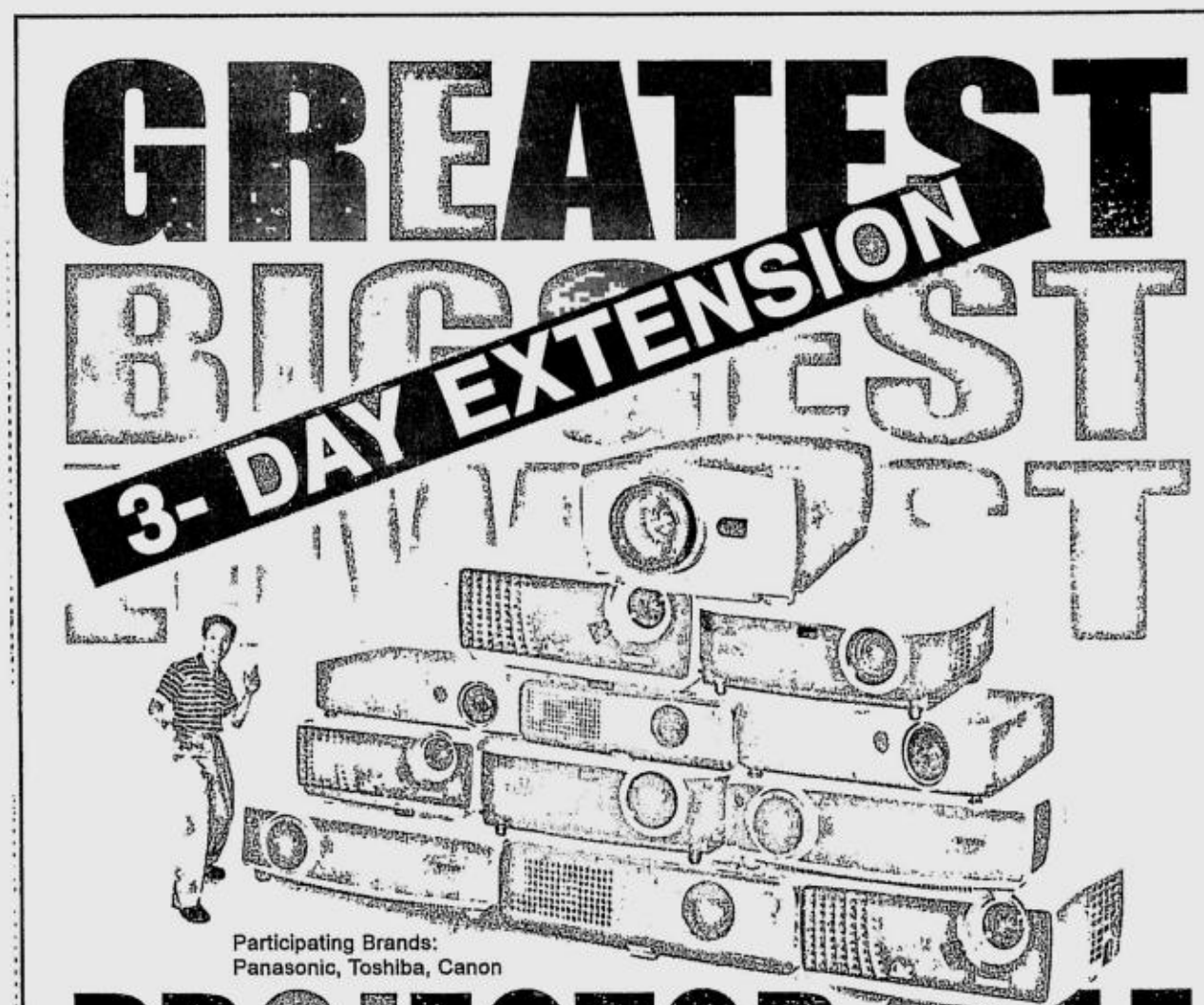
Around Monday midnight, when Binay's camp got the news that his suspension was imminent, Makati's first family moved over to the city hall with bags filled with clothes and personal necessities.

Braver than he

Binay's 62-year-old wife shrugged off the latest crisis to hit her husband.

She said she had gone through worse times: she was nine months pregnant with her first child with Binay in 1973 when she visited him while he was under detention for criticizing the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"Maybe as the years passed, I have become a very strong woman. I might even be braver than my husband," she said.



17 ABS-CBN executives face 'Wowowee' charges

From page A1

to protect the thousands of people who had trooped to PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) to attend the grand anniversary show.

Other respondents

The DOJ recommended the filing of the same charges against Molly Stewart, "Wowowee" executive producer and manager; Harold James Nueva, associate producer for sets and technical; Norberto Vidanes, "Wowowee" director; Rey Cayabyab, assistant location manager and security coordinator; Francisco Rivera, ABS-CBN location manager; Mel Feliciano, "Wowowee" assistant director, and Jean Owen Garcia, floor director.

"The stampede could [have been] foreseen [through] the exercise of reasonable care and due reflection," the panel added.

Charges were also recommended against Jesus Belardo, PhilSports building administrator; Erlinda Reis, booking and events coordinator, and security personnel from Goldlink Security and Allied Services Inc. identified as Rosenbar Viloria, Wilfron Onanad and Chito Payumo.

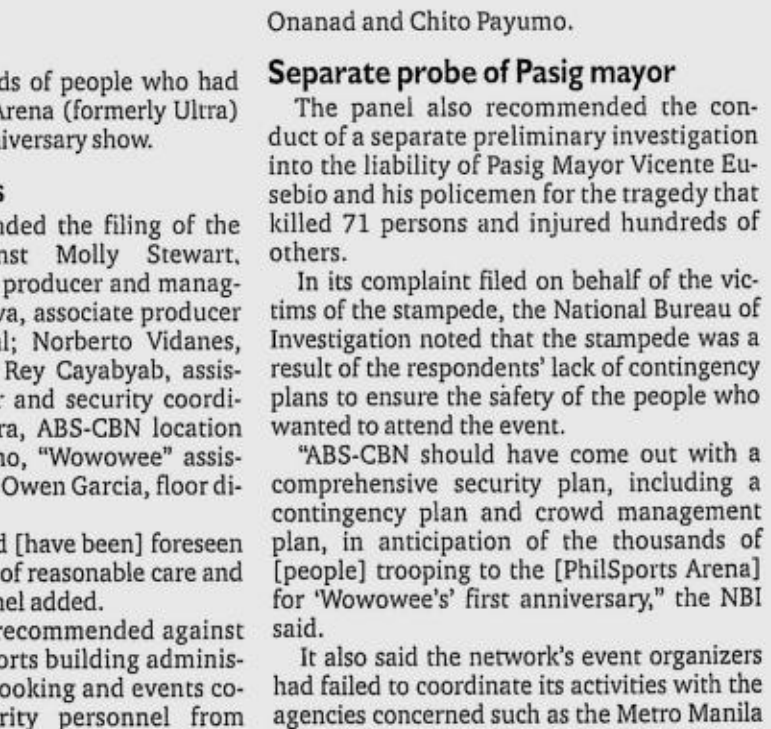
Separate probe of Pasig mayor

The panel also recommended the conduct of a separate preliminary investigation into the liability of Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio and his policemen for the tragedy that killed 71 persons and injured hundreds of others.

In its complaint filed on behalf of the victims of the stampede, the National Bureau of Investigation noted that the stampede was a result of the respondents' lack of contingency plans to ensure the safety of the people who wanted to attend the event.

"ABS-CBN should have come out with a comprehensive security plan, including a contingency plan and crowd management plan, in anticipation of the thousands of [people] trooping to the [PhilSports Arena] for 'Wowowee's' first anniversary," the NBI said.

It also said the network's event organizers had failed to coordinate its activities with the agencies concerned such as the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Philippine National Police.



FANS wait behind a wire fence outside the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City before the deadly stampede that marred the first anniversary celebration of the popular noontime game show "Wowowee."

PDI PHOTO

Cops in drug buy-bust busted for 'extortion'

From page A1

antidrug operation ended up being arrested for alleged extortion.

But operatives of the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, who requested anonymity, said the four, who were AIDSOTF members, were on a legitimate mission.

In a report, the PDEA said agents had been dispatched on Tuesday to the Jollibee restaurant on Banawe and Maria Clara Streets in Quezon City on the trail of Insp. Nathaniel Capitanea, a former PDEA member.

Capitanea was with PO3 Dan Firmalino, PO2 Jose Garcia, PO1 Nelson Mariano and Insp. Marco Polo Estera—all former members of the PDEA—and civilians Edgar Parce, Trivor Woodard, Roberto Antonio, Mario David, Joel David and Danilo Gabriel.

RAFFY LERMA

ARE THEY OR AREN'T THEY?: The four cops with six civilians presented to the media at the PDEA office in Quezon City after their arrest for alleged drug dealing claim they were on a legitimate drug-bust operation.

Buy-bust operation

Senior Insp. Bienvenido Reydado, Senior Insp. Gilbert Fariñas, PO2 Alexander Alvarez and PO2 Junjun Mataverde, who were later identified as AIDSOTF members, had gone to the restaurant to arrest the six civilians who purportedly had 175 grams of shabu.

The six civilians were found tied and blindfolded inside a van being used by the policemen. Also found inside the van were four sachets of shabu, allegedly the evidence from the buy-bust operation that led to the arrest of the six.

All six civilians and the five former PDEA men were detained.

An angry Santiago said the four task force officers did conduct a legitimate antidrug operation but tried to extort P100,000 each from the six civilians. He also said the supposedly legitimate operation violated police procedures.

"Is Jollibee now the headquarters of the AIDSOTF? After they arrested the six, they spent an hour inside Jollibee negotiating for their release. They might have had legitimate targets but they tried to extort money from the suspects," Santiago told the INQUIRER.

He also said the AIDSOTF officers were in cahoots with Capitanea and were operating without prior approval from higher-ups.

"We asked for their pre-operations report but they did not give it to us. How can it be a legitimate operation if there are illegitimate policemen involved? That is their style. *Huwag na sila mambola.* (They should stop pulling my leg). They should investigate this. They are covering up for their people," Santiago said.

He added that another police officer, still in uniform, managed to elude arrest. Santiago identified him as Richard Villanueva.

AIDSOTF inquiry

Task force chief Director Marcelo Ele said his agency was conducting an investigation into the case.

"We will look at the procedures done here from A to Z. As of now, we don't want to prejudge the case. We support the campaign to rid the force of scalawags and we will not cover up for our men. They will be dealt with accordingly," he told reporters.

Ele said illegal drug charges would be filed against the suspects.

Recovered from the policemen were six 9-mm pistols, one .45-cal. pistol, one .357 pistol, one Armalite rifle, two vans, one sport utility vehicle and three cars.

The arrested policemen are detained at the PDEA offices in Quezon City. They face charges of kidnapping for extortion and violation of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

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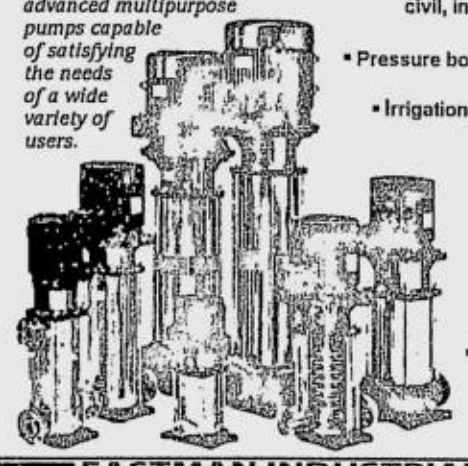

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Japanese war doc admits cutting up live Filipinos

From page A1

wartime experiences soon.

The military doctor is believed to have performed the human experiments at his own discretion.

It is publicly known that Unit 731, a secret medical experimentation unit of the former Japanese Imperial Army, performed vivisections on Chinese in Manchuria, now part of northern China, but Makino's testimony is the first relating to vivisections in the Philippines.

'I did something cruel'

"I was unable to resist orders, and I did something cruel," Makino said. "As the number of people with wartime experience decreases, I have a responsibility to speak the truth about the war."

Makino belonged to the No. 33 Guard Unit of the Japanese Navy. From August 1944, he treated injured soldiers on an air base in western Mindanao. The medical team, led by a military doctor in his 30s who held the rank of captain, had over 30 members. Makino held the No. 2 position.

Suspected spies

Makino said the vivisections began in December 1944, on residents suspected of being spies for the US military. They were carried out at a hospital on the base, with two people operating under the instructions of a military doctor.

The victims were put under anesthesia. The procedure lasted from about 10 minutes to three hours. During the process, their limbs were cut off, their blood vessels were sewn up and they underwent abdominal operations.

While the vivisections were being performed, subordinates reportedly helped and kept a lookout.

30-50 victims

Up until February 1945, just before the US military landed in Mindanao, the vivisections were reportedly carried out at a rate of between once every three days and once a fortnight. There were reportedly between 30 and 50 victims.

Subordinates carried the bodies away and buried them so that no one outside the medical unit would find out what they were doing.

A man in his 80s, who was one of Makino's subordinates, said he saw the bodies.

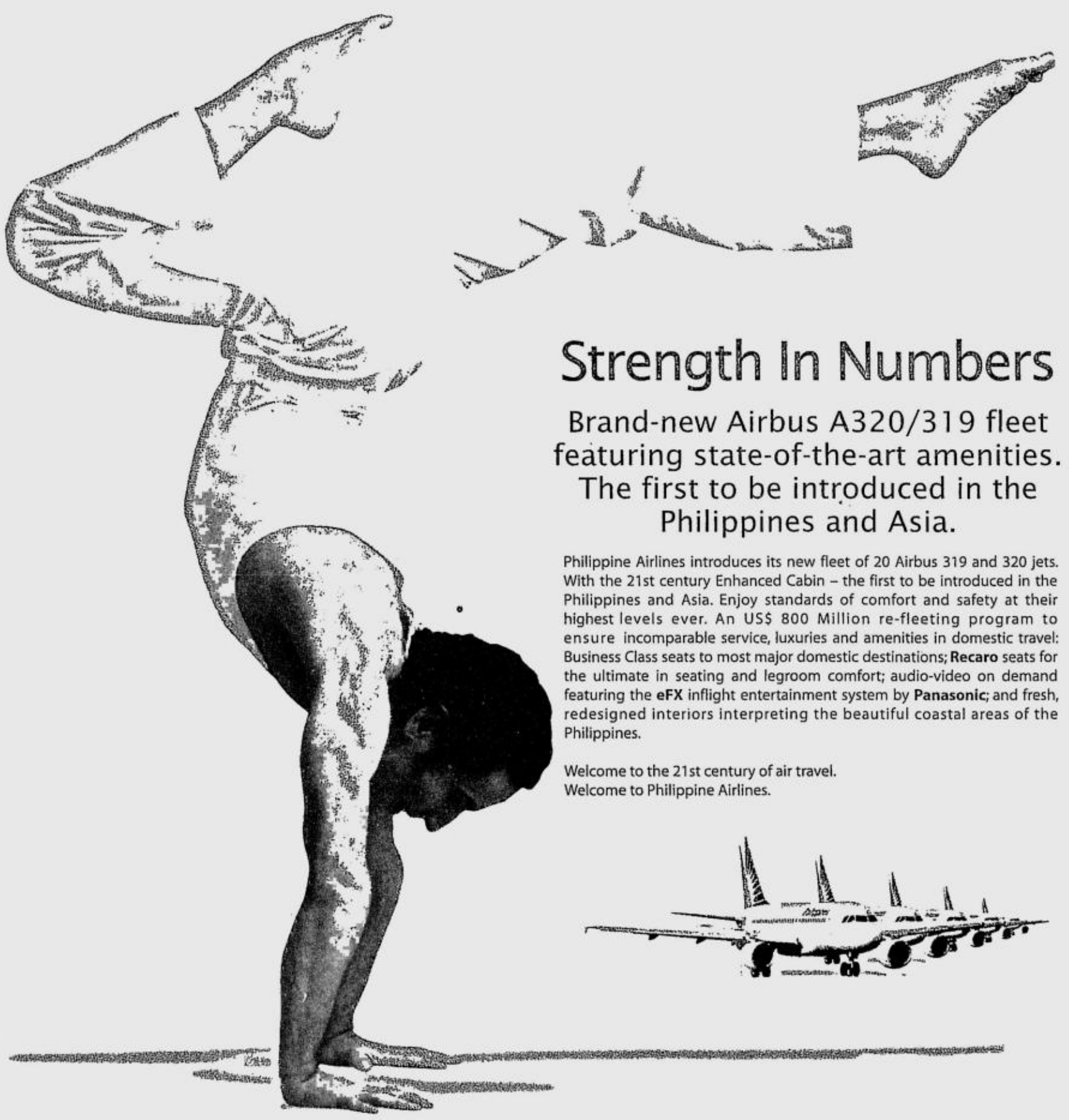
"I felt sorry (for the victims), so I didn't join in, but I heard from my friends (about what was going on)," he said. "I also saw the bodies."

Battle of Leyte

About two months before the vivisections began, the Japanese Imperial Navy suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. Zamboanga was also struck heavily.

In giving a reason for performing the vivisections, the military doctor reportedly told Makino, "If I die, you'll have to be in charge of treatment."

When the US military landed on the western part of Mindanao in March 1945, the Japanese soldiers fled into the jungle. Many troops died of illness and starvation, and the military doctor reportedly committed suicide.



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Binay wins Round 1 as court issues TRO

From page A1

60 days, unless sooner lifted, ordering the public respondents, Executive Eduardo Ermita, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and any of their representatives and agents ... to temporarily refrain from implementing or further enforcing the questioned preventive suspension," the court said.

In a decision penned by Associate Justice Enrico A. Lanzanas, the court also stopped the Palace and the DILG from "continuing or causing to conduct any proceeding relevant or incident" to Binay's graft case.

In one fell swoop on Tuesday, Malacañang ordered the suspension of Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and all of Makati's 16 councilors following a complaint by a political rival that they had been keeping about 1,000 so-called ghost employees on the city payroll.

Round I

The Court of Appeals upheld Binay's contention that the complaint against him had failed to mention who the supposed ghost employees were.

"Like in boxing, we have won Round One. I hope there won't be a Round Two," Binay told cheering followers in his 21st-floor office, which he had refused to give up despite fears that the police might try to forcibly evict him.

"But if there is a Round Two, I hope I can count on your support," he added, clutching a white handkerchief.

The DILG-designated caretaker, Rodolfo Feraren, who had been holding office in the old Makati City Hall for the past two days, said he was accepting the court's order. *(See related story on Page A1).*

"It came from the Court of Appeals so I will abide," Feraren told the INQUIRER. "It's all right with me. I have always been apolitical."

Unverified, wrong forum

The court set a P200,000 bond for Binay "to answer for damages that may be sustained by the respondents by reason of the temporary restraining order in the event that this court finally decides that (Binay) was not entitled thereto."

In his petition for a TRO, Binay complained that his constitutional right to due process was violated because an "unverified" complaint was filed against him and that it was filed in the "wrong forum"—the DILG.

Instead of being dismissed, he said the complaint "found its way" to the Office of the President, which ordered his preventive suspension.

The court said it found Binay's petition for a TRO "materially justified."

Injury to petitioner

It said Binay's petition "has established the extreme urgency of the situation and the imminence of the injury to the petitioner (Binay) if the suspension is allowed to run."

The court also said Binay "had not even been informed of who these alleged ghost employees are."

It stressed: "Suspension from office of an elective official would deprive the electorate of the services of a person they have voted into office. In the event that this court rules that there is undue haste in the issuance of the assailed order of preventive suspension, and that the same is unreasonable, the effects of said suspension, if enforced or allowed to proceed, cannot be quantified."

Shower of confetti

The court told the respondents to comment in 10 days whether its order "should be lifted and/or the writ of preliminary injunction be not granted."

Binay was given five days to reply to the comment of the petitioners.

At the quadrangle below Binay's office, some 3,000 of his supporters who had been there for hours broke into cheers and applause and sang "Bayan Ko."

A shower of confetti fell on them.

Some of the suspended councilors danced with their supporters to the beat of hip-hop tunes while waiting for Binay to emerge from his office.

"To those exhausted at having waited here and who made a lot of sacrifices, thank you from the bottom of our hearts," Vice Mayor Mercado told the crowd.

Florencia Badal, 63, and Teresita Amida, 47, of Barangay San Isidro broke into tears and said: "Praise the Lord for hearing our prayers."

First on Inq7.net

The crowd first learned of the news about the CA ruling when some of Binay's supporters came out to distribute copies of a news item that had been flashed on the Inq7.net website.

Speaking at a news conference while holding a copy of the court ruling, Binay thanked those who had come to support him, including those who had brought food and water for the thousands holding vigil in the quadrangle.

"Let's continue and strengthen our unity so that we could achieve the dream of FPJ, the dream of every Filipino—a new day for the nation where freedom, justice and peace reign," Binay said, referring to the late movie actor and opposition leader Fernando Poe Jr.

Later, he spoke to the crowd at the quadrangle, who repeatedly cried out his name.

But the almost three days of standoff had taken its toll on some supporters, who had fallen asleep on sheets of cardboard—oblivious to the rejoicing going on around them.

Meters away, the old City Hall building where Feraren had held office, suddenly seemed quiet and distant. Policemen guarding the building silently ate their dinner or simply watched the revelry.

By then, Feraren had been long gone. The TRO came just when it seemed he was getting the hang of his new job: He had even placed his nameplate on the desk he was using.

Blow to 'bullheadedness'

Sen. Joker Arroyo, one of the Senate's legal eagles, said the TRO won by Binay was the latest in a series of judicial blows to Malacañang's "bullheadedness."

"The administration's record is a record of defeats in the courts. Imagine, they've never won a case in the past several months—from (Presidential Proclamation) No. 1017, CPR (calibrated preemptive response), Executive Order No. 464, the Presidential Commission on Good Government, and now the case of Binay," said Arroyo.

"This is the bullheadedness of Malacañang. This is very humiliating that Malacañang makes a move of doubtful constitutionality and, in fact, dares anyone to go against it, and each time they are challenged they go down in defeat," said the senator, who is Binay's friend.

Arroyo said the TRO against Binay's suspension was another "triumph of constitutionalism."

Malacañang should respect the TRO and leave Binay alone, he said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Businessmen relieved

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COURT OF APPEALS DECISION defusing a potentially explosive standoff at the Makati City Hall brought relief to the business community.

The pro-administration Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said its main concern was that the rule of law be upheld.

"What we want to see is for due process to take its course," PCCI president Donald Dee said in an interview. "We have no problems with Mayor [Jejomar] Binay. We just want to see the rule of law implemented."

The Bankers Association of the Philippines said upholding the rule of law was important for the business community.

"We should let the law prevail, whatever it is," BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said.

Most BAP members are Makati's largest taxpayers.

Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz said Binay's case was only a caricature of the larger problem which the administration must address vis-à-vis its political opponents.

"The question here is, 'Is due process being followed?'" he said.

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Palace hails 'timely' order ...

From page A1

part of the normal court processes.

"We think that this will reinforce the rule of law in our country because the Ombudsman can now proceed with his investigation on the cases filed against Mayor Binay," he said.

Before the court came out with its TRO, Malacañang was getting anxious over the protracted standoff in Makati, where Binay had put up a stand and refused to vacate his office.

To defuse the potentially explosive situation, the Palace had reportedly started backchannel talks with Binay for a peaceful solution.

Although he did not identify the intermediaries between Malacañang and Binay, Defensor said the purpose of the backchannel effort was to ensure a peaceful solution to the crisis.

"As much as possible we want to avoid any confrontation; let cooler heads prevail. If it becomes confrontational, it is not good for anyone," he said.

Nothing new

Defensor belittled the size of the crowd that had flocked to City Hall in support of Binay.

"It's nothing new, that is a natural reaction. The highest number he got was 600. But even if there were only 10 or 50, if they will fight to the end, then that would be trouble," Defensor said.

He stressed that it was the government's responsibility to ensure that "once the rule of law is implemented, there is no violence, no damage to property."

Defensor denied that the government was softening on its stance to evict Binay.

"If violence could be avoided, it's good to take that stand (negotiate for a compromise). We can file charges, arrest them, but we don't have to be arrogant about it," he said.

In a briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye reiterated the Palace position that the suspension of Binay was part of its duty to enforce the rule of law.

Troops on alert

Both Defensor and Bunye were careful in their statements about Binay, apparently to avoid further agitating his supporters.

Before the appellate court's ruling came out, some 1,500 soldiers were ready to move in should the crowd of Binay supporters become unruly and the police need assistance to disperse them.

Brig. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, commander of the Armed Forces' National Capital Region Command, said he had placed three battalions on standby at NCRCom headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

"We are watchful of the developments in Makati," Dolorfino said.

He made it clear, however, that there was no order to disperse the crowd.

Terror threat

He also said there had been no request from the Philippine National Police to deploy the troops. "They have been readied for deployment. This was our own initiative, to be on alert."

Dolorfino said he had also readied the civil disturbance troops for the anti-Charter change caravan of militant groups expected to arrive in Manila today, and as a security measure in case of terror bomb attacks in the metropolis. (*See story in Across the Nation, Page A20*)

He denied that he had deployed troops to the North and South Luzon Expressways to block militant groups from entering the capital to join the Makati crowd.

What he deployed, he said, were intelligence operatives to monitor possible terrorist attacks.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines warned its soldiers from participating in any pro-Binay rallies.

"They are aware of regulations. We have to be insulated from partisan politics. If they join (any rallies), there will be sanctions," said AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

Congratulations

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno congratulated Binay after the court issued the TRO.

"This proves that staying with the legal processes is the best course of action for everyone. So everyone got frantic over nothing," Puno said in a press statement.

"Congratulations to him," he added.

Puno said he had already ordered designated officer in charge Rodolfo Feraren to step down as caretaker of the city "upon receipt of the TRO."

Interior Undersecretary Wencelito Andanar said a thorough examination of the court's order must be made since the suspension had already been served.

"A fact that has already been done can no longer be restrained," said Andanar, a lawyer. "Let us look (at) the tenor of the order."

Puno was in Cagayan de Oro City attending an antiterrorism conference.

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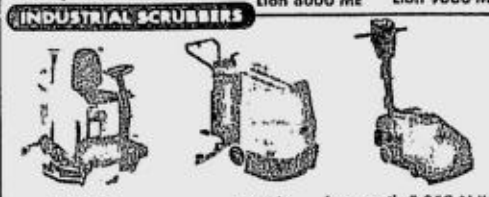

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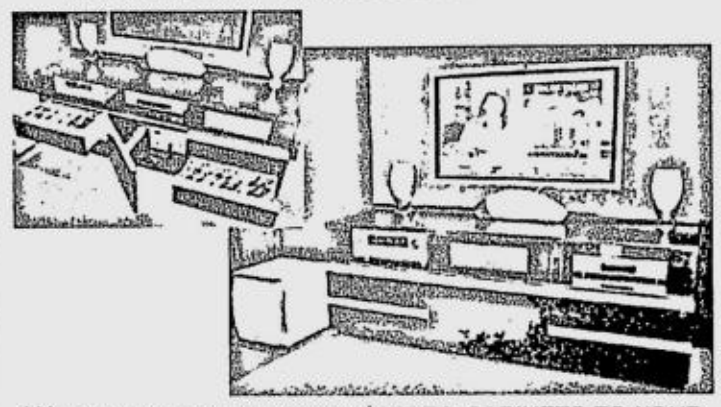

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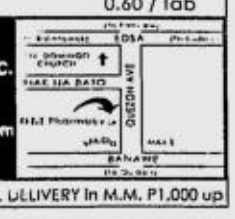

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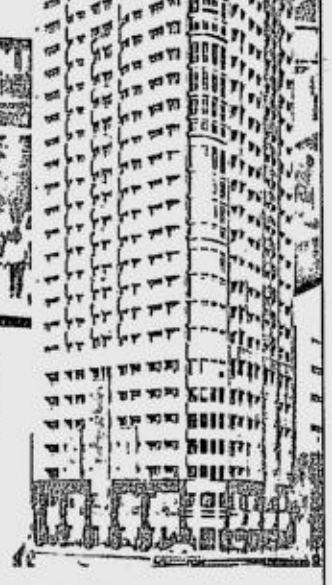

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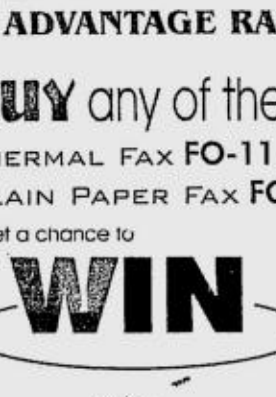
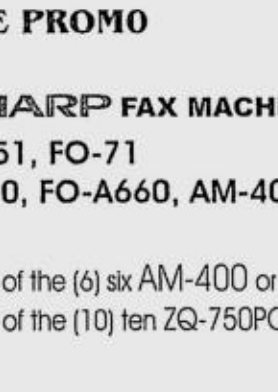


AM-400



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of Firms for Local Fund Management Services

1. The GSIS, through its Corporate Fund for CY 2007 intends to apply the sum of THIRTY TWO MILLION PESOS (Php 32,000,000.00) being Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Services for Local Fund Management, as follows:

   Group A (For 3 Fund Managers – P2 billion mandate) Php 24,000,000.00
   Group B (For 4 Fund Managers – P500 million mandate) 8,000,000.00

2. The GSIS invites duly licensed Fund Managers that have been in operation for at least ten (10) years to submit *Letter of Intent* (LOI) to apply for eligibility and to bid. Interested bidders are required to submit their LOIs on or before **October 20, 2006** at the *GSIS Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat*, Level 7 GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City

3. Bidding shall be: a) open and competitive, using the non-discretionary *pass/fail* criteria as specified in Part A of the *Implementing Rules and Regulations* of Republic Act No. 9184 (*Government Procurement Reform Act*); and b) limited to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act No. 5183. Whether a bidder is eligible or ineligible shall be determined through the process described in Section II of the bidding documents. Only the bids of those found eligible shall be opened. The bidder with the Highest Rated Bid (HRB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage, where it is determined whether a bidder satisfies both the eligibility and the technical requirements of the project. The contract shall be awarded to the bidder with the Highest Rated Responsive Bid (HRRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification

   The GSIS shall evaluate the bids using the QUALITY-BASED Evaluation Procedure. The GSIS shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical Proposals. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the *GSIS Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat*, Level 7 GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City with telephone number 832-1894, and buy the *bidding documents* for **P3,000.00** in cash **from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., starting October 18, 2006.** The prospective bidder or his authorized representative shall personally receive the bidding documents.

5. The GSIS BAC will hold a pre-bid conference on **October 20, 2006, 9:00 am** at the PRS Lounge, Core C, Level 1, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.

6. The *eligibility requirements* together with the technical bids must be submitted on **November 7, 2006, from 10:00 to 10:30 am** at the PRS Lounge, Core C, Level 1, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City. Late bids shall not be accepted Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives on **November 7, 2006, at 11:00 am.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following forms:

Form of Bid Security	Amount	
	Group A	Group B
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check	80,000.00	20,000.00
Surety Bond	200,000.00	50,000.00

7. The GSIS BAC encourages and prefers that the *eligibility requirements* be submitted **before** the submission of the technical bids The procedure will give the GSIS BAC enough time to inform the concerned bidders about any deficiencies and for the bidders to correct such deficiencies before the deadline for the submission of bids

8. The details on the delivery schedule are provided in the bidding documents under **Section VII – Terms of Reference**.

9. The GSIS reserves the right: a) to accept or reject any bid; b) to annul the bidding process; and c) to reject all bids anytime before the contract is awarded, without incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Original Signed)
OMELITA J. TIANGCO
Executive Vice President
Vice-Chairman, GSIS Investment Bids and Awards Committee

MESSAGES

The Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product Standards (DTI-BPS) congratulates the officers and staff of Advance Paper Corporation on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

In an ever-increasing competitive economy, the collaborative efforts of industry and government are imperative to enable Philippine products and services to be globally competitive. The partnership between the DTI and the paper industry, in working towards harmonizing Philippine National Standards with international standards and in participating actively in BPS Technical Committee on School and Office Supplies is indeed relevant in keeping the Philippine paper industry at par with other countries.

We commend the Advance Paper Corporation to be the leading manufacturer and distributor of notebooks, pad paper and other school and office supplies. Your continuous support and cooperation in improving the quality of paper products and meeting the demands of the local market by continuously battling with the challenges of the dynamic paper industry greatly ease the work of the government.

In behalf of the Bureau, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the APC for its support and contribution to the advancement of the paper industry. We look forward to other fruitful endeavors with your organization in protecting the welfare of consumers and businesses as well.

ENGR. JESUS L. MOTOOMULL
BPS Director
Department of Trade and Industry

Congratulations to Advance Paper Corporation on your Silver Anniversary!

We join you in celebrating twenty-five years of achievements as Advance Paper Corporation has risen to become a leading manufacturer and distributor of quality paper products and other school and office supplies.

Advance Paper Corporation has survived the crests and troughs of our economy through the years. You have provided jobs to so many people and have contributed to our country's progress through your productivity and your participation in projects that reflect corporate social responsibility.

We wish you more success as you face greater challenges in the coming years. More power!

Francis Chua
President - Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry , Inc.

Best Wishes to ADVANCE PAPER CORPORATION for the celebration of its 25th anniversary. Giant steps forward and keep on advancing towards many golden years. I have personally witnessed the growth of Advance Paper from a notebook manufacturer to a large, diversified paper company.

More power to your choice!

Victor T. Lim
President - Association of Paper Traders of the Philippines, Inc.

My warmest greetings and best wishes to the ADVANCE PAPER CORPORATION on the occassion of its 25th Anniversary Celebration.

As you mark another year of service to our country and our students, I hope to see your company continuing high regard for the welfare of our people particularly to the educational sector of our society.

To the officers, staff, and workers of the company, my heartfelt congratulations and I wish your continued success in the coming years.

MABUHAY.

VICTOR L. CUE
President - Phispano

My warmest greetings and congratulations to the Board of Directors, officers and staff of Advance Paper Corporation on your 25th anniversary.

As you begin to chart perhaps another twenty five years (25) in the industry, I hope your organization will continue to contribute immensely on the growth and progress of the office supplies and stationery business. Your pursuit to product excellence has been a milestone in the paper industry.

Again, congratulations and more power!

Mr. Vicente C. Ng
President - Philippine Stationers Association, Inc.

In the Pursuit of Printing Excellence

Advance Computer Forms Inc. (ACFI) is one of the top printers of computer forms for various industries such as telecom companies, banks, insurance companies, government agencies, educational institutions and other business establishments. Its custom product range includes printing of business forms such as pre-printed continuous forms, plain continuous forms, cut sheet, padded and booklet forms, security and other forms. Pre-printed continuous forms like printed single part and multi-part products for impact overprinting, forms such as statement of accounts, bills, receipts, invoices, vouchers, payslips, card carriers, letterheads and charge slips. Plain continuous forms like forms without printing for reports, forecasting, records, paper materials such as bond, book and carbonless paper. Cut sheet, padded and booklet forms such as printed products in varying sizes for desktop or high speed laser overprinting, other printed forms in pads and booklet forms. Security forms like paper forms that are watermarked, sensitized or have toner retention properties, forms with micro printing, special numbering, barcoding, fluorescent, thermochromic or solvent sensitive inks. Other forms such as ATM , POS and thermal rolls, and printed stickers and labels. ACFI uses only the highest quality paper materials for all its bond, book, carbonless and thermal paper requirements. Products are based on the customer's requirements and specifications. ACFI, in all its undertaking is constantly guided by its mission to produce and deliver quality products and services to ensure customer satisfaction and foster harmonious and long-lasting relationships with the various companies it serves. Either you are at work, in the bank, in the restaurant or shops in the mall, or even in the parking, everywhere you go, ACFI plays a vital role and takes part in the everyday lives of the Filipino people. ACFI as a service-oriented company takes pride in its commitment to customers and is moving forward in the pursuit of printing excellence.

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With Imprensa, you can be sure that your cheques, certificates, vouchers, and other official documents will be given the protection they deserve in a way that's tailor-fit to your strictest requirements. Backed by years of experience in the printing business, Imprensa endeavors to provide you with the utmost in quality products and customer satisfaction through the latest in security printing designs, materials and technologies.

ISPI aims to continuously strive to be present in all major sectors of business in the country today and is significantly attentive and more responsive to its growing clientele in the security printing industry.

Message from the Chairman and CEO

There's an ancient Chinese proverb that says "May you live in interesting times." This mindset has been driving a remarkable and continuing transformation of our organization, **Advance Paper Corporation**. I look with a lot of pride and enthusiasm of what has been achieved over the last twenty five (25) years.

We are celebrating the many interesting times and changes that have come our way especially when it comes to the people we have worked with. This road map of transformation has been a continuing commitment to be excellent in every dimension of our work in order to reach our full growth potential and obtain first-rate customer service and high quality affordable products from the very best sources.

I believe our commitment to our valued suppliers is a "win-win" paradigm where we have built successful business partnerships to offer our customers even greater variety of choices.

One fact that makes me particularly proud of are our ardent patrons and loyal customers who all through these years have continually patronize our products.

In the spirit of leadership, I give my direction to strive for continuing commitment for excellence. Our workforce on all levels of our company have committed themselves by supporting and embracing diversity to approach new challenges.

In our nation, we feel a special social responsibility in nurturing the country's growth by catering to the needs of the students of the masses with affordable high quality Advance and Topline notebooks, pad papers and other school supplies, thus promoting the value of education. Our dedication to contribute immeasurably to the development of livelihood in the communities will help build stronger neighborhoods in our society by providing employment opportunities. Step by step, we believe we are making progress.

At twenty five, **Advance Paper Corporation** was envisioned to be a more vigorous and dynamic organization, encouraging greater diversity all across our industry as I hand in my legacy to the next generation.

As we look ahead, we see a bright and fresh dawn breaking for **Advance Paper Group of Companies**. This allow us to make better business decisions that will have far-reaching and lasting benefits for everyone our business touches: our customers, our suppliers and our associates. Above all, it is rewarding to know that we are succeeding with commitment as we look forward to many, many more interesting times to come.

MS. CONNIE HAW
Chairman and CEO, Advance Paper Group of Companies

Stars on Notebook Covers

Advance Paper Corporation (APC) began using celebrities as notebook endorsers only after a year of their operation. In 1982, APC first tapped the services of the first batch of Regal Babies, Maricel Soriano and William Martinez, Snooky and Albert Martinez. Through the years, APC has featured in the covers of Advance notebooks selections with more than a hundred young and upcoming stars as endorsers. APC also unveils its newest and hottest endorsers for next year's back to school from the Stars Struck Batch 1 stars Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado, Yasmien Kurdi and Nadine Samonte, Batch 2 stars Mike Tan and Ryza Cenon and Batch 3 stars Marky Cielo, Jackie Rice, Gian Carlo and Iwa Moto. Also included are Pinoy Big Brother Teens Edition winners Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson.

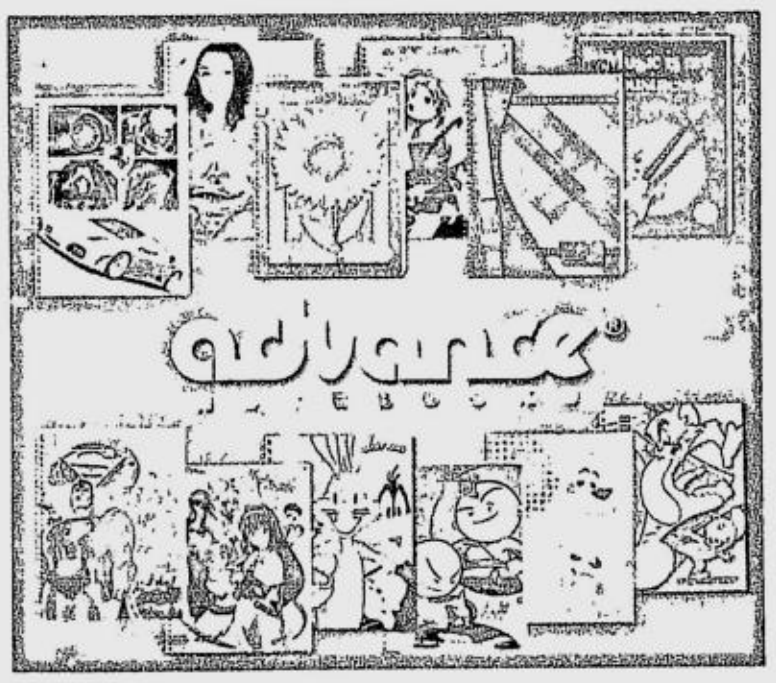
Premium High Quality Notebooks

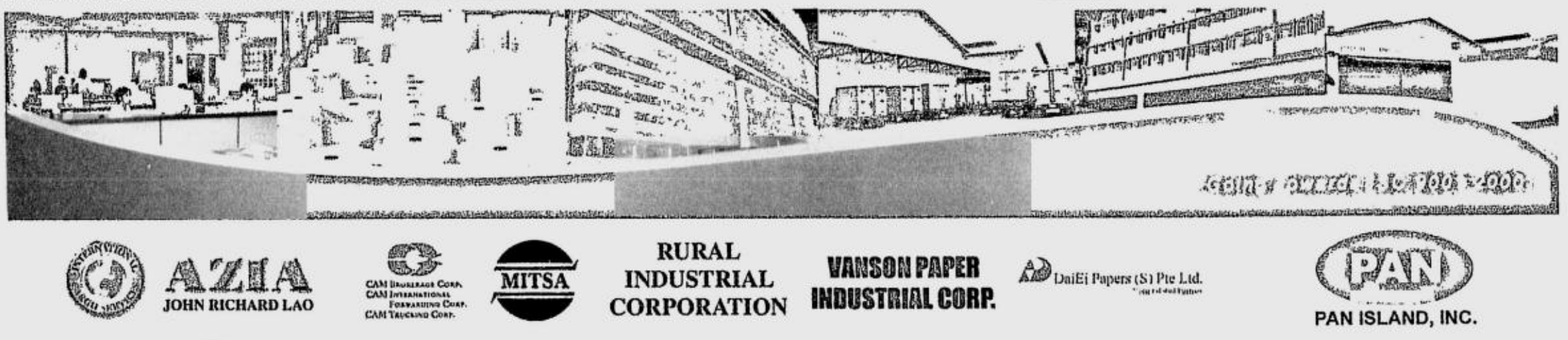
Spring Leaf 685 Notebooks come with a wide variety of designs to choose from. It seems as no surprise that these hip and trendy double loop wire notebooks design series such as 685 Special Die-Cut, Cool Prints, Express, Neo-Brights, Frosted Plastic Covers in five new colors, and the newest design series, MYX Prints are a hit among students and even the yuppies. These premium high grade notebooks are all made from imported high quality book paper material.

Cool Licensed Character Notebooks

Also available are the licensed character notebook designs such as Looney Tunes and Baby Looney Tunes, Scooby Doo, Dragon Ball Z, Astroboy, Power Puff Girls, Tom and Jerry and the Flintstones. Added new licensed characters Ragnarok, Justice League, Planet Happy, Xiaolin Showdown and the pre-schoolers and kids educational character, Dora are among the new cover design selections for 2007 back to school.

Advance and Topline notebooks including the Premium High Quality Spring Leaf Notebooks are available at all leading bookstores, department stores and all paper dealers nationwide .





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MESSAGES

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We join you in celebrating twenty-five years of achievements as Advance Paper Corporation has risen to become a leading manufacturer and distributor of quality paper products and other school and office supplies.

Advance Paper Corporation has survived the crests and troughs of our economy through the years. You have provided jobs to so many people and have contributed to our country's progress through your productivity and your participation in projects that reflect corporate social responsibility.

We wish you more success as you face greater challenges in the coming years. More power!

Francis Chua
President - Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry , Inc.

Best Wishes to ADVANCE PAPER CORPORATION for the celebration of its 25th anniversary. Giant steps forward and keep on advancing towards many golden years. I have personally witnessed the growth of Advance Paper from a notebook manufacturer to a large, diversified paper company.

More power to you!

Victor T. Lim
President - Association of Paper Traders of the Philippines, Inc.

My warmest greetings and best wishes to the ADVANCE PAPER CORPORATION on the occassion of its 25th Anniversary Celebration.

As you mark another year of service to our country and our students. I hope to see your company continuing high regard for the welfare of our people particularly to the educational sector of our society.

To the officers, staff, and workers of the company, my heartfelt congratulations and I wish your continued success in the coming years.

MABUHAY.

VICTOR L. CUE
President - Phispano

My warmest greetings and congratulations to the Board of Directors, officers and staff of Advance Paper Corporation on your 25th anniversary.

As you begin to chart perhaps another twenty five years (25) in the industry, I hope your organization will continue to contribute immensely on the growth and progress of the office supplies and stationery business. Your pursuit to product excellence has been a milestone in the paper industry.

Again, congratulations and more power!

Mr. Vicente C. Ng
President - Philippine Stationers Association, Inc.

In the Pursuit of Printing Excellence

Advance Computer Forms Inc. (ACFI) is one of the top printers of computer forms for various industries such as telecom companies, banks, insurance companies, government agencies, educational institutions and other business establishments. Its custom product range includes printing of business forms such as pre-printed continuous forms, plain continuous forms, cut sheet, padded and booklet forms, security and other forms. Pre-printed continuous forms like printed single part and multi-part products for impact overprinting, forms such as statement of accounts, bills, receipts, invoices, vouchers, payslips, card carriers, letterheads and charge slips. Plain continuous forms like forms without printing for reports, forecasting, records, paper materials such as bond, book and carbonless paper. Cut sheet, padded and booklet forms such as printed products in varying sizes for desktop or high speed laser overprinting, other printed forms in pads and booklet forms. Security forms like paper forms that are watermarked, sensitized or have toner retention properties, forms with micro printing, special numbering, barcoding, fluorescent, thermochromic or solvent sensitive inks. Other forms such as ATM , POS and thermal rolls, and printed stickers and labels. ACFI uses only the highest quality paper materials for all its bond, book, carbonless and thermal paper requirements. Products are based on the customer's requirements and specifications. ACFI, in all its undertaking is constantly guided by its mission to produce and deliver quality products and services to ensure customer satisfaction and foster harmonious and long-lasting relationships with the various companies it serves. Either you are at work, in the bank, in the restaurant or shops in the mall, or even in the parking, everywhere you go, ACFI plays a vital role and takes part in the everyday lives of the Filipino people. ACFI as a service-oriented company takes pride in its commitment to customers and is moving forward in the pursuit of printing excellence.

Security at Work with Imprensa

Better safe than sorry

These days, it pays to be extra-careful, especially when it comes to document security. Faced with the enhanced capabilities of current copiers, scanners, and graphics software, it is now easier than ever to fall prey to forgery, counterfeiting and document fraud. Crimes such as these can cost you and your business millions of pesos every year. But this can be easily remedied and avoided if you take the necessary precautions.

Protect your organization. Protect yourself.

Allow us the opportunity to work with you. We are confident that we will be able to help you find the best, safest and most economical way to keep your documents secure. **Imprensa Security Printing, Inc., (ISPI),** the newest venture and the latest wholly-owned sudsidiary of Advance Paper Group of Companies offers a wide range of printing solution that require security feature. It specializes in the printing of bank notes, cheques, gift certificates, passports, clearance forms, land titles and ID cards such as health care cards, driver's license and others.

Add security to the documents you issue with Imprensa Security Printing.

With Imprensa, you can be sure that your cheques, certificates, vouchers, and other official documents will be given the protection they deserve in a way that's tailor-fit to your strictest requirements. Backed by years of experience in the printing business, Imprensa endeavors to provide you with the utmost in quality products and customer satisfaction through the latest in security printing designs, materials and technologies.

ISPI aims to continuously strive to be present in all major sectors of business in the country today and is significantly attentive and more responsive to its growing clientele in the security printing industry.

Message from the Chairman and CEO

There's an ancient Chinese proverb that says "May you live in interesting times." This mindset has been driving a remarkable and continuing transformation of our organization, **Advance Paper Corporation.** I look with a lot of pride and enthusiasm of what has been achieved over the last twenty five (25) years.

We are celebrating the many interesting times and changes that have come our way especially when it comes to the people we have worked with. This road map of transformation has been a continuing commitment to be excellent in every dimension of our work in order to reach our full growth potential and obtain first-rate customer service and high quality affordable products from the very best sources.

I believe our commitment to our valued suppliers is a "win-win" paradigm where we have built successful business partnerships to offer our customers even greater variety of choices.

One fact that makes me particularly proud of are our ardent patrons and loyal customers who all through these years have continually patronize our products.

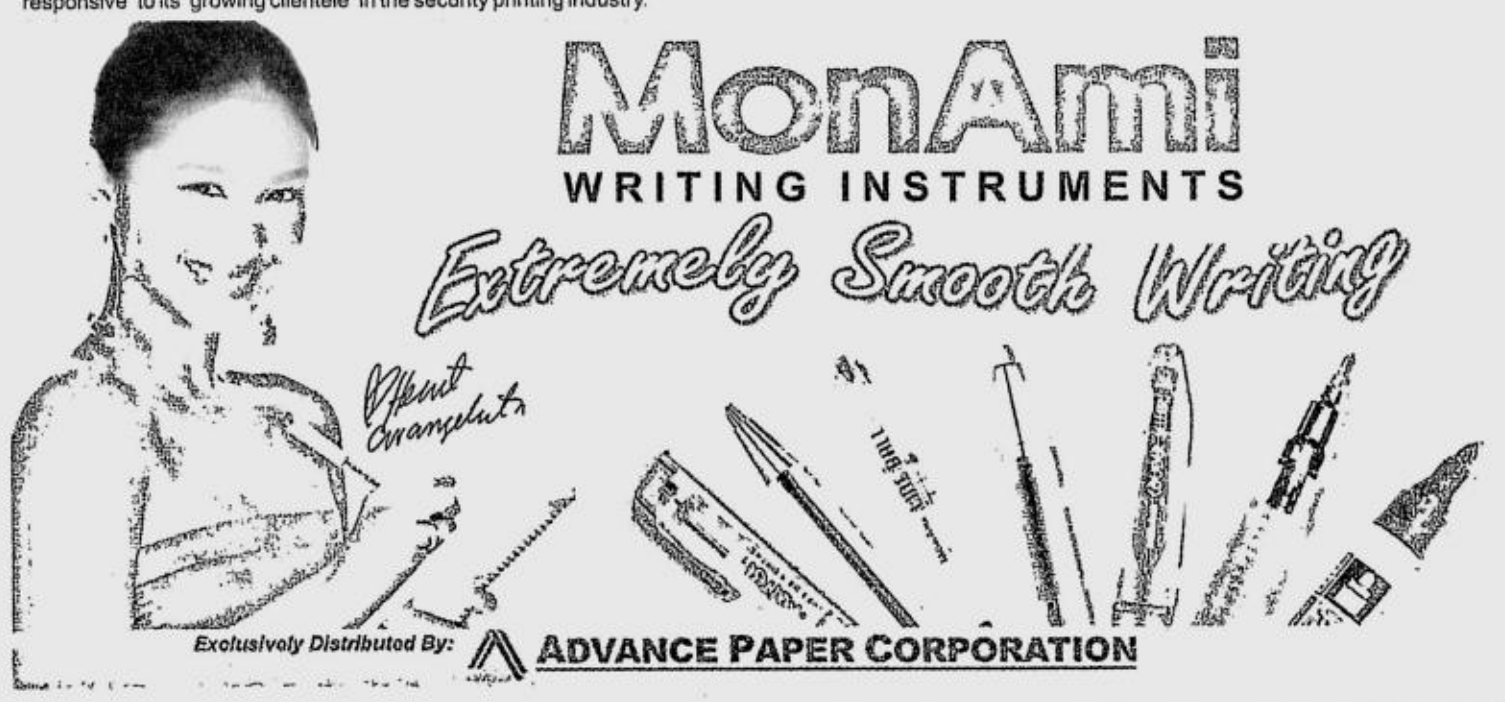
In the spirit of leadership, I give my direction to strive for continuing commitment for excellence. Our workforce on all levels of our company have committed themselves by supporting and embracing diversity to approach new challenges.

In our nation, we feel a special social responsibility in nurturing the country's growth by catering to the needs of the students of the masses with affordable high quality Advance and Topline notebooks, pad papers and other school supplies, thus promoting the value of education. Our dedication to contribute immeasurably to the development of livelihood in the communities will help build stronger neighborhoods in our society by providing employment opportunities. Step by step, we believe we are making progress.

At twenty five, **Advance Paper Corporation** was envisioned to be a more vigorous and dynamic organization, encouraging greater diversity all across our industry as I hand in my legacy to the next generation.

As we look ahead, we see a bright and fresh dawn breaking for **Advance Paper Group of Companies**. This allow us to make better business decisions that will have far-reaching and lasting benefits for everyone our business touches: our customers, our suppliers and our associates. Above all, it is rewarding to know that we are succeeding with commitment as we look forward to many, many more interesting times to come.

MS. CONNIE HAW
Chairman and CEO, Advance Paper Group of Companies



Stars on Notebook Covers

Advance Paper Corporation (APC) began using celebrities as notebook endorsers only after a year of their operation. In 1982, APC first tapped the services of the first batch of Regal Babies, Marcel Soriano and William Martinez, Snooky and Albert Martinez. Through the years, APC has featured in the covers of Advance notebooks selections with more than a hundred young and upcoming stars as endorsers. APC also unveils its newest and hottest endorsers for next year's back to school from the Stars Struck Batch 1 stars Mark Herras and Jennylyn Mercado, Yasmien Kurdi and Nadine Samonte, Batch 2 stars Mike Tan and Ryza Cenon and Batch 3 stars Marky Cielo, Jackie Rice, Gian Carlo and Iwa Moto. Also included are Pinoy Big Brother Teens Edition winners Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson.

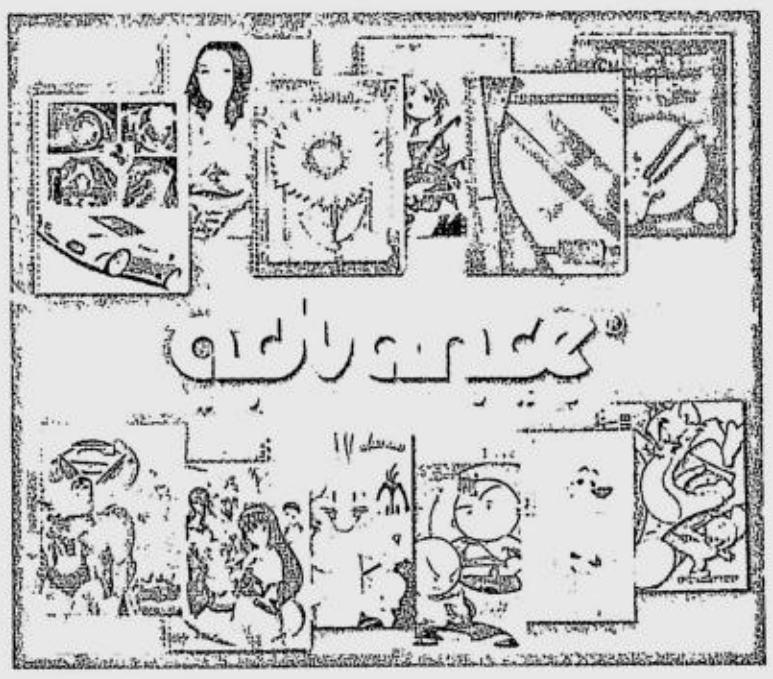
Premium High Quality Notebooks

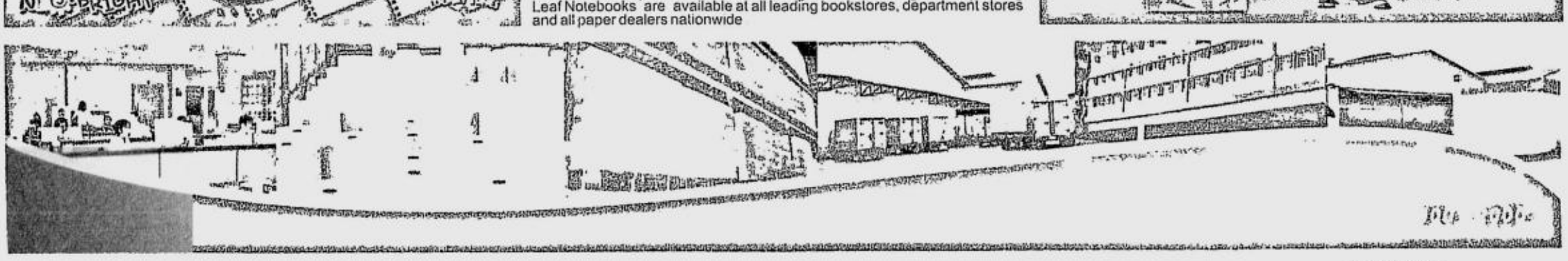
Spring Leaf 685 Notebooks come with a wide variety of designs to choose from. It seems as no surprise that these hip and trendy double loop wire notebooks design series such as 685 Special Die-Cut, Cool Prints, Express, Neo-Brights, Frosted Plastic Covers in five new colors, and the newest design series, MYX Prints are a hit among students and even the yuppies. These premium high grade notebooks are all made from imported high quality book paper material.

Cool Licensed Character Notebooks

Also available are the licensed character notebook designs such as Looney Tunes and Baby Looney Tunes Scooby Doo, Dragon Ball Z, Astroboy, Power Puff Girls, Tom and Jerry and the Flintstones. Added new licensed characters Ragnarok, Justice League, Planet Happy, Xiaolin Showdown and the pre-schoolers and kids educational character, Dora are among the new cover design selections for 2007 back to school

Advance and Topline notebooks including the Premium High Quality Spring Leaf Notebooks are available at all leading bookstores, department stores and all paper dealers nationwide





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ADVANCE PAPER CORPORATION

Celebrates its

25th Anniversary
1981-2006

The most trusted and recognized brand in paper

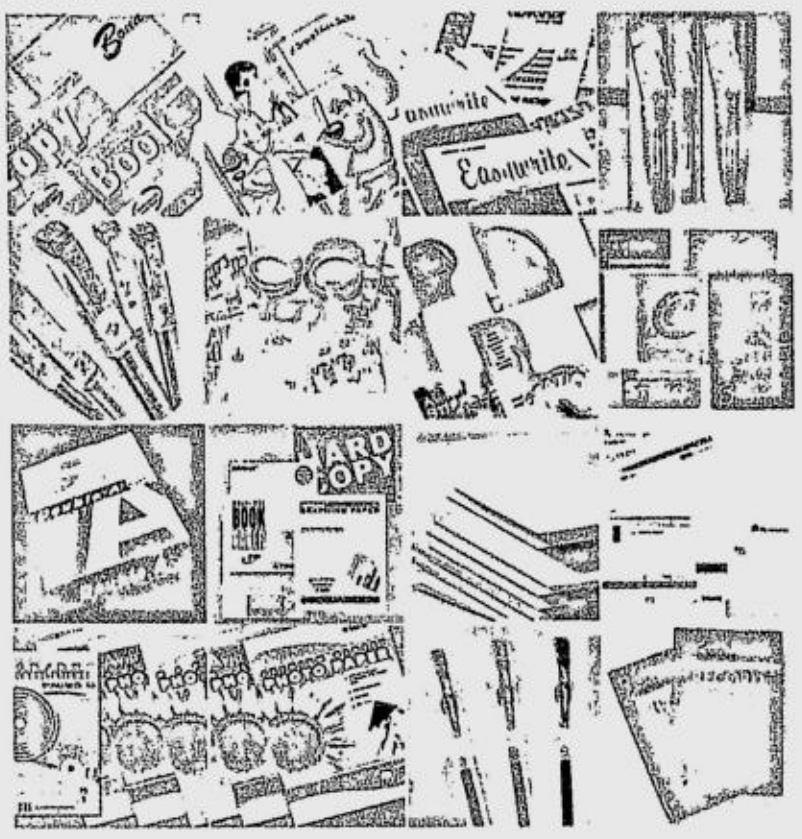
Continuing the commitment of giving its customers excellence in service and quality products.

Humble Beginnings

Advance Paper Corporation was founded on July 23, 1981. The company started as a small backyard operation, manufacturing ruled paper products, writing pads and notebooks for students. It was then located in a rented 980 square meters warehouse in Judge Luna street in San Francisco Del Monte, Quezon City. With meager capital, founders husband and wife team borrowed money from family members and began operation with the purchase of two secondhand ruling machines and two paper cutters, three punching machines for spiral notebooks and a book binding machine used for composition notebooks. After two years of operation, the company bought their first imported secondhand sheeting machine producing cut-size bond paper and book paper.

Relocation to a Modern Facility

In a few short years, Advance Paper Corporation had established a niche in the notebook industry through the availability of its high quality products to the market at an affordable price. Prompted by the need to serve the Filipino students better, the plant was relocated in 1985 to a larger 3 hectares converting facility in Baesa, Quezon City. With the sprawling new location, the company started investing in more advanced machines and equipments to meet with the increasing demands. New product lines such as commercial, document and expanding envelope machines, die-cutting machines for file folders, slitting machines for fax paper rolls, adding machine and cash register rolls and several offset printing press machines were added. New printed products also grew in scope from gift wrappers to calendars from card files to all various office forms.



A Remarkable Growth

Advance Paper Group of Companies
Through the years, Advance Paper Corporation significantly expanded as it became increasingly attentive and responsive to the growing paper needs of the Filipino. This led the company to diversify into different product lines and other paper related products.

The growing market for notebooks prompted the company to form another notebook manufacturing company catering to the lower levels of the class C and D group of the population.

Topline Paper Inc. was established on August 31, 1993. This company produced notebooks using recycled paper at very competitive and affordable price. Now, "Topline" brand of notebooks are distributed nationwide from Luzon, Visayas, and the Mindanao areas. Students could now afford cheaper notebooks with their favorite movie stars on the covers and a hundred designs to choose from.

In the early 1990's, with the advancement in information technology, the company saw a widespread demand for business forms that played a dominant role in their companies' computer systems process. This led to the entry of the company into the computer forms business.

Advance Computer Forms, Inc. was established on September 30, 1993. The company specialized in the printing of business forms servicing corporate and multi-national companies, government agencies, educational institutions and various business establishments.

The new millennium saw the boom of globalization with the influx of different imported consumer products. Advance Paper Corporation decided to carry a widespread line of imported school and office supplies.

Topline Diversified, Inc., was formed as the importation arm for imported school and office products. Mother company, Advance Paper Corporation distributes Thailand's Advance Paper Co. multi-purpose copy paper, Double A and South Korea's MonAmi writing instruments. Other school items were introduced in the market such as licensed character Looney Tunes crayons, "Stuck on U" glue, "Rewrite" correction fluid products and "Tapex" packaging tapes. In the future, more products will be introduced in the market.

Imprensa Security Printing was formed on July 19, 2005. Backed by the years of experience in the printing business, the company endeavors to provide service with the utmost in quality and customer satisfaction through the latest in security printing designs, materials and technologies.

A Formidable Market Leader

Being consistently in the Top 2000 Corporations in the Philippines, Advance Paper Corporation has established its reputation as one of the formidable players in the paper industry.

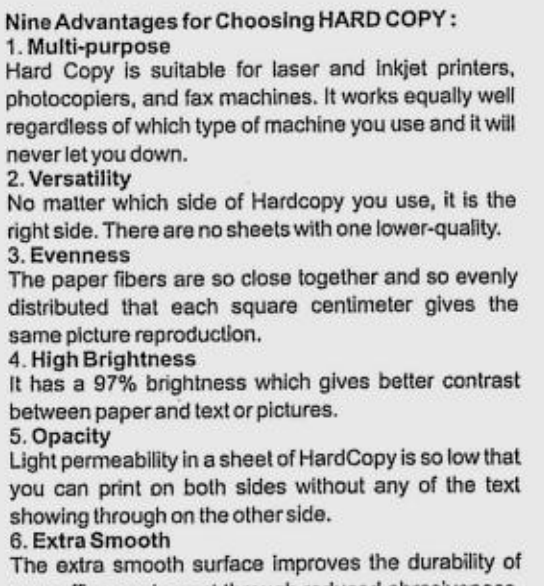
Advance Paper Corporation is the biggest producer of notebooks in the country with more than twenty five percent (25%) market share of notebook production in the Philippines. Advance and Topline notebooks, with a wide range of designs to choose from is the preferred brand of students today. Springleaf, a new line of high end but easy on the pocket notebooks with hip, trendy and Character designs has now been a favorite of the college students and the yuppies. The company also holds the number one position for copy paper, the brand "Hard Copy" is the best selling multi-purpose paper in the market. Easywrite pad paper also dominates the market from quiz pad to intermediate pad as it is widely distributed and available all over the country. MonAmi writing instruments, also a premiere brand belongs to the top five (5) best seller in the writing instruments category in the leading bookstores nationwide. Most of the other company brands and products are selling briskly in the market and have already established its loyal customer base.

HARD COPY
MULTI-PURPOSE PAPER

Everyone has heard about the paperless office, a workplace that will function without a single post-it note. All business operations, all transactions and communications will be fully automated. No more memos, letters, reports, brochures, announcements on your desk will sit a computer capable of dealing with every aspect of your day's work. The paperless office will enhance efficiency while providing the highest standard of ergonomic comfort and safety. This was the fear of most paper companies back in the early 1990's. We have heard about this paperless system for two decades already, however this has not been the case. Worldwide paper consumption has shoot up each year and continue to steadily increase. All offices, schools and government institutions doubled its usage of paper for copier, fax and computer laser and inkjet printers. This led to the birth of a multi-purpose paper. Advance Paper Corporation introduced their brand, "HardCopy".

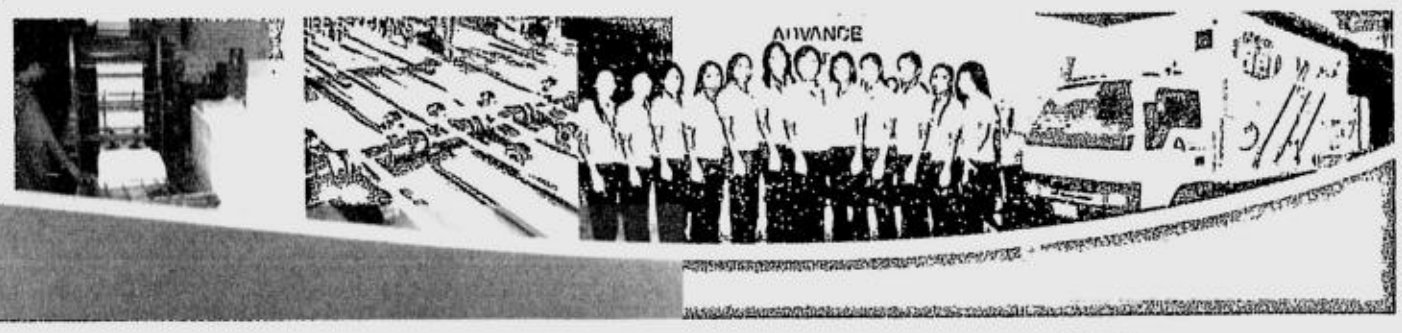
Nine Advantages for Choosing HARD COPY :

1. **Multi-purpose**
Hard Copy is suitable for laser and inkjet printers, photocopiers, and fax machines. It works equally well regardless of which type of machine you use and it will never let you down.
2. **Versatility**
No matter which side of Hardcopy you use, it is the right side. There are no sheets with one lower-quality.
3. **Evenness**
The paper fibers are so close together and so evenly distributed that each square centimeter gives the same picture reproduction.
4. **High Brightness**
It has a 97% brightness which gives better contrast between paper and text or pictures.
5. **Opacity**
Light permeability in a sheet of HardCopy is so low that you can print on both sides without any of the text showing through on the other side.
6. **Extra Smooth**
The extra smooth surface improves the durability of your office equipment through reduced abrasiveness. Save costs of printer maintenance with up to 50% extra life from from some printer parts.
7. **Jam Free**
Why waste time and money with machine jams? HardCopy is guaranteed 99.99% jam free, giving increased levels of productivity.
8. **Long-lasting**
If you store HardCopy in a dark place, we guarantee that the paper will keep for at least 100 years.
9. **Guaranteed 500 sheets**
One ream of HardCopy is machine counted. That's why it is guaranteed five hundred (500) sheets.



ADVANCE PAPER GROUP OF COMPANIES

ADVANCE PAPER CORP. · TOPLINE PAPER INC · ADVANCE COMPUTER FORMS, INC · IMPRENSA SECURITY PRINTING · tdi TOPLINE DIVERSIFIED INCORPORATED



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2006

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 21 No. 314

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

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Pressure on the Court

EDITORIAL

BEFORE REPORTERS THE OTHER DAY, CHIEF Justice Artemio Panganiban admitted that pressure is being applied on his fellow justices of the Supreme Court with regard to Sigaw ng Bayan's petition to conduct a national referendum on amending the Constitution. "Yes, there's pressure from people who are interested ... but the Court is used to pressure," Panganiban said. But he assured the public that his fellow justices will not let such pressures "impede the court in deciding the case."

We agree, or perhaps, it would be more accurate to say that we believe, as the public believes, that the justices of the Supreme Court will neither set aside the integrity of the judicial branch of government nor shirk their duty to render a decision. Talk of pressure is exactly that, talk. The only pressure that is clearly there for all to see are columns by partisan proponents of Sigaw ng Bayan's petition. But their persistent call for the Court to give the initiative the go signal is obviously not what the Chief Justice meant when he referred to "pressure."

The Chief Justice was quite reticent about which camp—whether those for or against the Sigaw petition—was applying pressure. However, in its online edition (Oct. 13), Newsbreak magazine reported that "people trusted by the President have been lobbying with select magistrates, causing the balance to shift several times the past two weeks." Newsbreak reported that the pressures ranged from one ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo promising a future appointment as chief justice to a senior justice to a religious group interceding with a justice close to it (an allegation strongly denied by that group). There has even been renewed focus on the proposed constitutional amendments drafted by the House of Representatives, which would include a provision extending the retirement age of justices from 70 to 75, a naked and tasteless attempt to bribe the members of the high court.

What the public can expect is a series of marathon sessions as the Court comes to grip with the case and makes its decision. "We will have a special en banc session on Oct. 25," Panganiban said. "We will try to finish it by the end of next week because it's an important matter. We would like to end this very important issue."

And this is precisely what the public should be reminded of: that what is before the highest court of the land is a very important issue, an issue that deserves to be resolved one way or another.

Since the first effort to amend the Constitution by means of the people's initiative was attempted during the Ramos administration, the legal community has been divided over how to interpret the Constitution and the people's initiative and referendum law. It would be unhealthy for the Court not to weigh in and finally resolve whether or not the previously declared defects of the law should impede the people's ability to invoke the constitutional right to propose amendments, just as it would be a disservice to leave dangling the ongoing debate on what constitutes revision or amendment of the fundamental law.

Both sides in the people's initiative divide have pointed to Javellana vs Executive Secretary, when the Supreme Court ducked questions on the legitimacy of the martial law regime by saying it accepted a fait accompli, as a clear display of judicial cowardice. That decision has haunted all subsequent Courts, and rightly so.

But neither should the Court be swayed by the advocates of people's initiative who argue that just because in the past it had acted in a cowardly manner, it must now seize the bull by the horns and render a judgment favorable to their side. Or, simply throw the question to the people in a plebiscite.

That would be a calamity—legally and politically. For the Court to totally sidestep the issue, on the basis of the whole controversy being a political question, is to repeat history, and disgracefully at that. Since the Chief Justice has admitted that pressure is being exerted on the members of the Court; and since it has been reported from which side the pressure is coming, it is vital for the Court to confront the legal issues, and not act in the manner of the most notorious magistrate of them all, Pontius Pilate.

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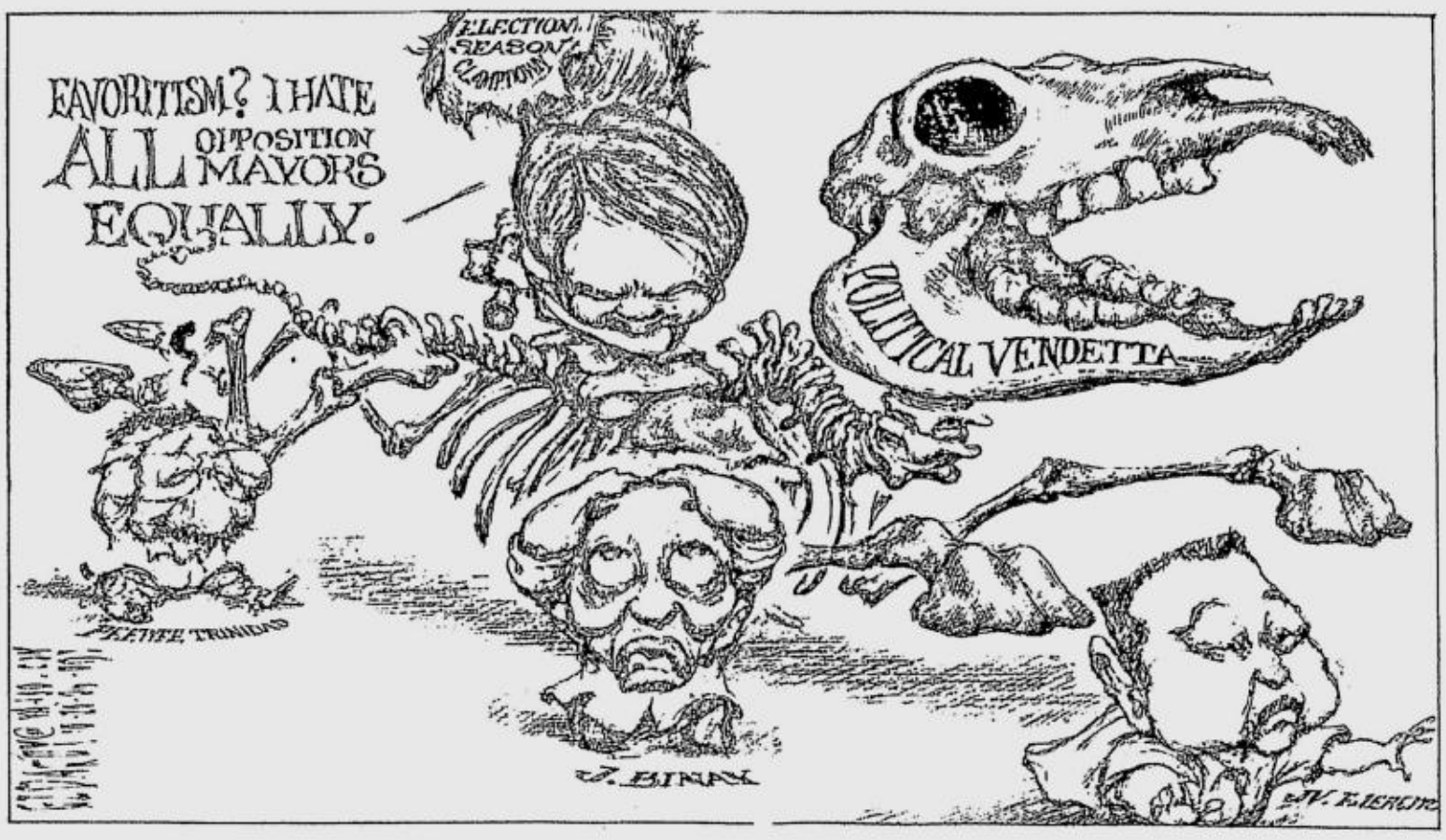

Bad decision at Poro Point, great art at Polo Club

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE WRIT OF PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION issued by a court banning the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) and its subsidiary, the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC), from taking over the operation of the Poro Point seaport and bulk terminal will expire at the end of the month and chaos is expected to erupt again if the injunction is lifted.

It is the Poro Point Industrial Corp (PPIC), a consortium composed of the BCDA, PPMC and Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI), a private corporation, that has the contract to operate, and is in fact operating, the seaport. But PPMC workers, with the help of policemen and Navy men, raided the seaport and forcibly took over its operation until the court told them to get out.

What is strange here is not only that the two government partners in the consortium that operates the seaport are the ones who want the corporation they co-own to be put out of business, but also the apparent haste in securing and serving a cease-and-desist order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on PPIC.

In a country notorious for its bureaucratic red tape, a regional director of the DENR established a record in the speed with which the order was requested, issued and served—all in a matter of hours. Here is what the trail of documents show:

First, a request was sent by the PPMC to the DENR office in Quezon City on July 25, 2006. The request, signed by lawyer Felix Singson Racadio and addressed to Secretary Angelo Reyes was stamped "Received" by the Office of the DENR Undersecretary for Legal Affairs at 12:20 noon of the same day. The request was for a cease-and-desist order against the PPIC in which the BCDA is a joint partner.

The reason for the request: "serious environmental concerns."

About four hours after the office received the Racadio request, Joel Salvador, who appears to be regional director of the DENR environment management bureau, issued the cease-and-desist order. This is perhaps the fastest such order issued in the history of the Philippines. And here is the strangest part: Salvador's order was issued on July 25, 2006, but the memorandum from Reyes' office directing Salvador to investigate the complaint was issued only on July 31, 2006 and received by Salvador's office on Aug. 31.

That means Salvador issued an order without a complaint and without a directive from higher headquarters. And when the directive from the central office came, it was to investigate, not to issue such an order.

Another strange thing: Salvador served his July 25 order to the PPIC only on Aug. 4, the day before armed groups stormed the seaport in an attempt to oust the operator.

Did Salvador keep his order in his desk for eight days? That means there was no urgency for its issuance. Wasn't Salvador too arbitrary and reckless when he issued his lightning order?

Cease-and-desist orders are issued by the DENR only when there is what is called "imminent danger." From the trail of documents, what appears to have been the basis of Salvador's order was merely "traces of coal" and the culprit was not PPIC but a firm called Saturn Marketing. There is "imminent danger" when something similar to the Guimaras oil spill takes place. No such environmental damage of similar magnitude was present in Poro Point.

DENR rules also provide against the abuse of cease-and-desist orders. First, a notice of violation has to be served to the party suspected of creating the "imminent danger." Second, a technical hearing has to be conducted where both the complainant and the respondent present their sides and evidence. None of that happened in the case of the Salvador order.

That arbitrary action of Salvador not only resulted in the violence at Poro Point and the disruption of port operations but, more important, kindled fear and concern among international and local investors. They ask, "Is this how the Philippine government conducts business?"

* * *

Few Filipinos have seen the paintings of Salvador Arellano, a son of the great Juan Arellano, the National Artist for Architecture. But more should see the art of Salvador Arellano because they are excellent and can hold their own among the best of Philippine art.

There are several reasons why few Filipinos have seen Arellano's paintings. One is that he has not held an exhibit in any art gallery. His exhibits are usually one-night affairs at somebody's private home where only friends are invited.

Another is that he is now based in the United States.

A third reason is that his paintings are owned by the elite, the wealthy owners of racehorses and champion fighting cocks, and so they are frightfully expensive.

His subjects are game fowls and racehorses, nudes and portraits, and his style is realist, almost photographic, with every feather, blade of grass, or piece of hay detailed. It is said that Arellano's paintings are so "realistic" that owners can recognize their fighting cocks and horses even yards away from the painting.

Fortunately, Arellano has gathered some of his best works in a coffee-table book. Titled "Salvador Arellano, Game Fowl Art and Other Works," the book will be launched this Sunday, Oct. 22, at 6 p.m., at the Manila Polo Club. A selection of his works will also be on exhibit, but again, it is only a one-night affair. Go there and feast your eyes on great art.

Liberty and Prosperity: Foreswearing the trade-off

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

FERDINAND MARCOS PLACED THE COUNTRY under martial law in 1972 as a short-term measure to fight the communist rebellion, but he soon transformed it into a long-term basis to build a "New Society," an egalitarian vision that turned out to be a veneer and whose scandalous betrayal led to the Edsa I uprising.

Older Filipinos may not like to admit it, but they actually welcomed martial law when it was first declared. Remember its slogan, "*Sa ikabubuti ng bayan, disiplina ang kailangan*"? Isn't that exactly what people seek today? How can anyone argue against "national discipline"?

The nation made the Faustian bargain in 1972, and it took Cory Aquino's historic uprising of 1986 for the nation to regain its soul. Called to choose between bread and freedom, we bartered our rights for economic growth, and ended both silenced and starved.

This week, several chief justices, high court judges and worthy scholars from here and abroad were convened by our Supreme Court to dialogue on whether that historical trade-off has truly paid off. Recall Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms": freedom of speech and of worship, freedom from want and from fear.

The question is: How far and how often should courts step into raging controversies? Activist courts readily step into the breach whenever political liberties are threatened, but critics raise a hue and cry when courts venture into the "uncharted waters of economic and social policy-making."

Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban's answer: When liberties are at stake, apply "strict scrutiny" and subject government to searching inquiry. But when merely economic decisions are involved, defer to the elected branches and let them make and apply policy.

This two-tiered Liberty and Prosperity test has been applied by the Court in its recent decisions to reject President Macapagal-Arroyo's "calibrated pre-emptive response" which was used to justify the violent dispersal of protest rallies, and her declaration of a "state of national emergency" which was used to justify warrantless arrests and raids on newspaper houses.

The Chief Justice recalled our historical experience, and explained why "our people value their freedoms [and] will not exchange them for food. Indeed, the Filipinos may endure occasional hunger, but [they] will never tolerate injustice and indignity for long."

In the past, the World Bank and foreign aid agencies had limited their work to building roads and funding fertilizers, but they now realize that without a genuine rule of law, fertilizer funds can easily be re-routed to private pockets (and which is why former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante must be denied sanctuary by the US, and be ferried home to explain whether fertilizer funds had been diverted into President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign kitty). Through such legal scaffolding, stakeholder voices will be heard and secure a level playing field where individuals can vote with their pocketbooks in free and open markets.

Yesterday morning, through the magic of technology, speakers from both sides of the Pacific "sat" together. On the California side was US Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy—significantly for Filipinos, a Roman Catholic appointed by a conservative president but now the pivotal swing vote, siding with the liberals on Roe v. Wade, gay rights, and against capital punishment. With him was US Appeals Court Judge Clifford Wallace, award-winning adviser on judicial reform. On the Manila panel was our own Chief Justice, New Zealand High Court Judge Edward Tainakurei Durie, Singaporean Solicitor General Chan Seng Onn, and myself as moderator.

All the speakers agreed that an independent judiciary is a key institution in democratic governance—courts that apply the law to all, impervious to pressure from power centers in government and in society. In a subsequent panel, Canadian Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin distinguished the "rule of law," which secures individual freedom, and "rule by law," by which tyrants provide a legal cover for the iron fist of the state (and which, may I add, even Adolf Hitler invoked for his pogroms against the Jewish people!).

Sadly, such "rule by law" has come to our benighted islands. In the latest round of harassment against the political opposition, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and all his elected city officers have been suspended, and now await a restraining order from the Court of Appeals.

Whichever way the standoff ends, the Palace has sent the message loud and clear to the opposition: Be afraid. Be very afraid. If we can run after the strong and charismatic Jojo Binay, we can run after you. The Palace must have thought: Why martyr the enemy by charging him with rebellion? Tar and feather him with the cheapest transgressions.

This, from a government whose Ombudsman went out of her way to clear the officials implicated by the Supreme Court no less in the election computerization scam. A fraud had been committed, the Supreme Court concluded. It's just that, the Ombudsman concludes, nobody did it!

This, from a government that couldn't produce Bolante, a vital witness in the fertilizer scam. This, from a government that until now has sat on the bribery investigation against its former justice secretary. This, from a government whose former top military comptroller has furnished all the evidence of his unexplainable wealth and yet remains scot-free.

The true casualty of Ms Arroyo's deficit of legitimacy is the rule of law. If there is one lesson from the martial law years, it is that history remembers those who stood idly by, and has judged them harshly. Let us hope that lesson is not lost on the Court as it ponders the case of the bogus people's initiative.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Politics of brinkmanship

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

BARRING A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORder from the Court of Appeals, a head-on collision is inevitable today between Malacañang and Mayor Jejomar Binay of Makati as the Palace enforces a presidential order directing his suspension for 60 days.

At the time of this writing, neither side was showing signs of backing off from a showdown that has carried the conflict between the highest executive authority of the land and a local executive, who is nominally under the President's jurisdiction, to the point of no return. This is not just a clash of national and local government jurisdictions. There are extraneous political issues that have inflamed the confrontation. Neither can we reduce the conflict to a clash of strong personalities, which so often surrounds political disputes in the country.

Few political standoffs in recent years have packed more combustible elements than this confrontation. Binay, barricaded in City Hall, has sworn, in melodramatic fashion, that he would rather die than be evicted. Palace functionaries have firmly insisted that in the absence of a court injunction, their forces would take over City Hall today.

The critical question is, who will blink first?

Regrettably for most, this is not Edsa I, when President Ferdinand Marcos blinked after seeing the massed human wave at Edsa, blocking his army and tanks. Although Binay has his die-hard supporters from Makati, there is no Edsa mass surrounding City Hall to block the riot police from forcing their way into his office. And this is what makes the confrontation one-sided if it comes to a show of force.

Many people would not like to see Binay being brought out of City Hall feet first. This is a situation that the Palace must avoid if it wants to prevent the showdown from sparking a conflagration and developing into a galvanizing issue for a mass movement ahead of the May 2007 mid-term elections in which Binay himself will be running for reelection. That election is crucial to President Macapagal-Arroyo as a referendum on her administration and vote of confidence that would assure that she serves her full term up to 2010.

It is pointless to quibble over the detail of whether President Arroyo personally directed the suspension based on an administrative compliant by a political rival of Binay that he had allegedly padded the city payroll with more than 1,000 "ghost employees." It is enough to determine the hand behind the suspension order from the admission of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita that he had signed the order "upon authority of the President." The fingerprints are stamped on the order.

The determination of Binay to hold his ground is stacked against the record of President Arroyo who is not known to have retreated from a showdown during the past seven years of her rule and has won all of them. The showdown has reached a point that any who backs off will lose face.

The President has more to lose from this showdown than Binay. A violent eviction would play right into his hands and those of the President's numerous opponents who have come out of the woodwork to express their support for the mayor. Whatever merits the administrative complaint possesses, the President has already lost in the eyes of public opinion. The suspension has transformed Binay into an underdog.

The suspension has handed on a silver platter a mobilizing issue to anti-Arroyo personalities and groups, an issue that has served as a magnet pulling all the numerous grievances they have damned her with. It comes after the exhaustion of the Garci tape issue, which failed to grow into a movement to force her resignation, through people power, and to remove her by impeachment. Look at the lengthening list of politicians and civil society activists who have declared support for Binay. It is a catalogue of personalities across a broad political spectrum of anti-Arroyo forces who have been given new life by the suspension order.

Binay is no saint, but he occupies a key and special position in the opposition. The President's enemies claim that the suspension is part of a politically motivated campaign to harass opposition figures ahead of the 2007 elections and a selective act of political vindictiveness.

This charge must be examined in the light of the fact that Makati has become the center of opposition to the President in Metro Manila, replacing Manila as the traditional center of opposition to the administration. Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila is Ms Arroyo's ally, and so is Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. of Quezon City, which together with Manila, comprises the richest and most populous base for both presidential and midterm elections.

Binay has been a lacerating thorn in the side of the administration. Most of the disruptive events of the past few years have taken place in Makati, among them the Oakwood mutiny and the aborted coup attempt of February. The numerous opposition rallies last year and the February opposition meeting at which the renegade Brig Gen. Danilo Lim planned to announce his withdrawal of support, enjoyed the protection of Binay. He has turned spoiler in the people's initiative movement to bring about the revision of the Constitution.

For the administration, Binay has undoubtedly become too inconvenient to be allowed to remain in control of Makati as events move toward a resolution in May 2007. This factor has little to do with whether or not the administrative complaint against him has basis. The battle of May 2007 has already started in Makati.

'Utang' to finance

"*UTANG*" IS MORE THAN JUST A DEBT. DURING THE PRE-colonial period, one became an *alipin* (loosely translated as slave) to pay off a debt. A copper plate found in Laguna, and dated back to the 10th century, certified that someone named Namrawan had paid off his debts and that he and his descendants had been freed of obligation.

Utang still has negative connotations today, almost as if we have some collective memories of that precolonial system of debt peonage, where we run the risk of a life of debt and destitution, passed on to succeeding generations.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Utang consists of endless cycles of lending and borrowing, one which is still played out daily in all aspects of the Filipino's life, from our $53.9-billion national debt, down to the mortgages we pay on homes, to the "5-6" usury (P5 becomes P6 in a week) and pawnshops charging 1 percent for a one-day loan.

Which is why this year's Nobel Peace Prize should take on special meaning for us. The prize went to a Bangladeshi economist, Muhammad Yunus, and his Grameen Bank, known for pioneering micro-finance (or microcredit) programs that have transformed the lives of millions of poor Bangladeshi. As early as 1984, our own Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation already recognized Yunus' work, giving him the award for community leadership. The Nobel committee, in awarding Yunus the peace prize, pointed out how poverty alleviation is linked to peace.

I thought of sharing some of my observations of micro-finance projects in the Philippines, many of which I saw—successes as well as failures—while working with NGOs. There are many lessons to pick up from Yunus' program, but we also need to be careful as we try to evolve our own versions for the Philippines, whether we work in a bank, an NGO, or an employer looking for ways to help the staff.

$27 to $5 billion

It's worth recounting the story of Yunus' program. Back in 1974, Yunus was a professor of economics, a field where you're supposed to think macro, think big. But Yunus had been intrigued by women in a nearby village who were trying to make a living by making bamboo stools. The women were having difficulties because they were getting their credit from usurers.

He learned that all it took was $27 to start a business going, but when that money came from usurers, it would plunge the borrower into lifetime debt. The women could not borrow from the banks because, like the poor everywhere, the banks considered them to be too risky, unlikely to pay back their loans and unable to put up any kind of collateral.

Yunus is known to be adamantly against charity doles, and will not respond to beggars. Instead of alms, he developed his microcredit scheme, with very low interest, plus a support program to help the women sell their products directly, without middlemen. Within a year, the women had paid him back, and he continued to give out these small loans, almost all of which were paid back on time.

In 1983, he set up Grameen Bank, specializing in microcredit. The bank has loaned out $5.7 billion and the program has been copied throughout the world, including the United States.

Think small, dream big

Governments as well as NGOs throughout the world, including the Philippines, have since launched similar programs. The chances of the programs succeeding depend pretty much on the same principle, which can be summarized as thinking small, dreaming big. Here are some of those principles, plus some specific points for the Philippines.

First, the loans are small, as we saw with the initial $27 loan given out by Yunus. In the Philippines, loans have generally been a few thousand pesos, although lately it has become more difficult to think small, mainly because of the high overhead costs, mainly rent. In Metro Manila today, a loan of P50,000 may not even be enough to start a *sari-sari* store.

Second, while the loans are given out to individuals, the borrowers must belong to a group, the members guaranteeing each other's loans. One person's failure to repay may mean the entire group being penalized.

Third, and this relates to the second point, the finance program is often tied to a community project, which helps to identify the organizations that might be worth "investing" in. The projects may be in such areas as agriculture, health or even environmental conservation.

Finally, the loans go mainly to women. The Grameen Bank currently has some 6.5 million borrowers, 97 percent of whom are women. Throughout the world, it seems women are better at handling micro-finance and this seems to tie in to traditional gender roles. Women handle domestic affairs, and are very conscious about budgets being stretched for the family's survival. For poor women, money earned is money to be saved, and invested in small income-generating ventures. Men are more "political" animals, more concerned about keeping smooth relations with peers and the outside world—which means, too, money earned is all too easily spent for peers.

A caveat here: In societies where men dominate, as in the Philippines, women are still vulnerable to pressure from their spouses or boyfriends, so it's not surprising to hear of cases where women are ready to pay back a loan, but default because the husband gets his hands on the money.

Political threats

Microcredit is really more than a loan program, which is why I prefer the term micro-finance, a kind of bootstrap to help the poor help themselves. It is a tool for community organizing and, pardon the cliché, empowerment.

The micro-finance institution not only provides money but support services, for example, conducting a market study, or helping to source supplies at low cost. Some of the micro-finance programs, not surprisingly, are part of gender projects, where women learn to assert their rights, which is so important if they are to say no to a husband's pleas for a conjugal *utang*.

Ultimately, micro-finance depends on the group or organization that takes in the "loan." It is this group that helps to ensure repayment and to find ways to keep the money circulating, converted into productive capital.

The main threat, then, to micro-finance is when it is used as a political tool. Micro-finance then becomes a fancier term for a dole, the politician more interested in creating political debts and garnering more votes. Patronage and dependence are reinforced, defeating the purpose of micro-finance.

I think micro-finance is best left to private banks and NGOs, with government stepping in as a regulator, and creating conditions for it to work, for example, by putting up low-cost spaces for vendors.

With Yunus' Nobel Peace Prize, I hope we'll begin to hear more success stories about micro-finance in the Philippines, where people are finally able to break *utang's* vicious cycles.

Why the haste against Binay and Co.?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FROM SARTORIAL PROPRIETY TO LOCAL AUtonomy, the issues emerging from the "standoff" between the national government (through the Department of Interior and Local Government) and the Makati City government are gathering steam.

The latest news is that Makati's traffic enforcers, whom suspended Mayor Jejomar Binay has baptized as his "Yellow Army," are massing up in front of the Makati City Hall to prevent "anyone" from storming the building to forcibly evict Binay, who has refused to vacate his office despite the suspension order imposed on him, his vice mayor and the entire city council.

Already, various opposition figures, including former President Cory Aquino and Susan Roces-Poe have dropped by the site of the standoff, lending their faces and names in support of the embattled mayor, even as hundreds of his *masa* supporters have camped out in front of the building. There are even talks that Vice President Noli de Castro may declare his support for Binay and Company soon, given the shaky ground upon which Malacañang's action stands, and the adverse reaction from the public.

Based on a complaint of former Makati councilor (and perennial losing mayoral candidate) Bobby Brillantes, the DILG acted with what seemed like undue haste in ordering the preventive suspension not just of Binay and Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, but also all the 16 councilors, thereby crippling the city government.

Miriam Go, in an article in Newsbreak magazine, says the action of the DILG "was an unprecedented redefining of the relationship between the national and local governments that the (Local Government) Code spells out—regardless of the merits of the charges hurled against the controversial mayor."

* * *

"ORDERING all the elective seats in a city vacated is a first in the country's post-Marcos history," notes Go. "It rendered useless the chapter on succession in the Code. DILG Secretary Ronaldo Puno himself acknowledged in a press release that the Code is silent on how to fill the vacancies in Makati."

For now, DILG National Capital Region director Rodolfo Feraren has been appointed OIC for Makati, though he has so far done nothing more momentous than to meet with the department heads of the city government to ensure that services to the people of Makati continue to be rendered. Still, it leaves a bad taste in the mouth, for the DILG action is clearly a violation of the Makati voters' right to be served by men and women they elected to office.

Whether all the elective officials of Makati are indeed guilty of hiring "ghost employees" has yet to be investigated, while the suspension has been brought before the Court of Appeals, where a petition for a temporary restraining order against the DILG is pending.

But according to Newsbreak, Malacañang may have acted "too swiftly" on the Binay case, issuing the suspension order even before "the issues were joined," that is, before the accused had a chance to counter the charges. While Binay and the city council had a chance to submit their reply last September, hearings have yet to be held.

* * *

GO quotes sources as saying that the haste with which Malacañang has moved against Binay was prompted by the need to move preemptively against the popular mayor, early enough to cripple his ability to raise funds for the opposition in next year's elections.

"Several sources … (say) that President Arroyo's camp wants to get rid of Binay because he has not only been hosting the oust-Arroyo rallies in his jurisdiction, he even funds them. The mayor is suspected, too, of contributing money to coup plotters, or at least keeping some of them in custody."

Even the President's advisers are said to acknowledge Binay's "invincibility" in Makati's electoral contest, and their assessment was that "the only way to weaken Binay's machinery is to keep his hands off the city government's huge resources before the campaign period."

It should be noted that Makati is the richest city in the country in terms of revenue collections, reportedly registering an average of P3 billion in surpluses annually since 2001.

* * *

THOUSANDS of "walkers" are expected to take part in the "Walk Against Breast Cancer" this Sunday, Oct. 22, to help raise funds for Avon's "Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer" campaign.

The "Walk" starts at 6 a.m. in different parts of country: at the SM Mall of Asia, in Cagayan de Oro (DV Soria corner Tirso Nery St.), and in Bacolod (Rizal Park), the first time the event will be held simultaneously across the Philippines.

Last year, some 14,000 men and women pounded the streets of Makati, Cebu and Davao to help raise P1.5 million for the Philippine General Hospital Breast Cancer Center and enabled Avon to donate ultrasound machines to the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu and Davao Medical Center.

This year, celebrities and personalities are lending their support to the campaign. Lea Salonga, Tweety de Leon, Jolina Magdangal, Iza Calzado, Amanda Griffin, Angel Locsin, Angelica Panganiban, Bea Alonzo and Angel Aquino are among the celebrities who are "pledging pink" to help raise breast cancer awareness in the country.

Avon hopes to gather men and women of all ages to join the "Walk." Participants are encouraged to wear a white or pink shirt or top. Registration fee is P50. In addition to funds raised from the annual event, Avon will donate P5 from the sales of specially designated lipsticks, intimate apparel and fragrances.

This year's proceeds will go to the PGH Breast Care Center, the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital in Bacolod and the Northern Mindanao Medical Center in Cagayan de Oro.

Crime against nature

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE OF THE TOURIST TRAPS IN MEXICO City is an 18th-century warehouse called "Parian." It is littered with stalls selling Talavera ceramics, woven textile, silver trinkets and other souvenirs we associate with Mexican culture. People who visit the place are too busy browsing or haggling to notice a small sign that says the place was named after the Parian in Manila.

I don't know enough Mexican history to establish a connection with either the Philippines or Chinese settlers who came with the galleons, but the Chinese were in Mexico as early as 1635. Their industry and business sense threatened Spaniards and Mexicans, so that in June 1635, the Cabildo of Mexico studied a complaint against Chinese barbers lodged by the disgruntled Spanish barbers who asked that the city limit the Chinese to 12 barbershops and that all of these be situated out in the suburbs.

In Spanish Philippines, the Chinese were seen as a "necessary evil." They were involved in the Galleon Trade, were good artisans and craftsmen and they even sold food that in the past four centuries have become part of our own diet. While the Chinese were allowed to practice their professions or indulge in trade, they were not very welcome inside Spanish Manila. They were restricted to a settlement that was literally outside the walls of Intramuros, in a place called the Parian. It was destroyed in the wake of the Chinese rebellion of 1603, but rebuilt and threatening again two years later.

Tourist guides in present-day Intramuros will often point to the area between the Manila Post Office and the Metropolitan Theater as the spot where the Parian once stood. Attention is also directed to the ramparts of the walls where cannons were permanently aimed at the Parian to deter future revolts.

Contemporary accounts of the series of Chinese revolts in Blair and Robertson make for some very amusing reading. One document explains why St. Francis of Assisi was considered the "Seraphic Protector of Manila." It was because he was alleged to have appeared on the walls of Intramuros, chasing the Chinese "infidels" with a flaming sword. Those of us who have been raised on the romantic Franco Zeffirelli film "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" cannot imagine this gentle saint, who was kind to animals, as the same beast killing rebellious Chinese in Spanish Manila.

That people were paranoid following a Chinese rebellion is understandable. That people would act to restrict the movement of the Chinese for political or economic reasons is also understandable. That the Chinese had to be segregated because they were infecting the newly converted indios into the "unnatural vice" needs to be reviewed, however.

In February 1605, Miguel de Benavides, the Dominican archbishop of Manila and one of the benefactors of the University of Santo Tomas, lodged a formal complaint against the Chinese and Japanese settlers. His Grace recommended strict segregation not only because of the threat of a revolt but more to preserve the morals of his flock. His complaint came complete with a signed deposition from witnesses that made an otherwise boring document worth a second look. Benavides wrote:

"The said Sangleys are infidels and idolaters, and a most pernicious and injurious people to be settled among the Christian natives, newly converted to our Holy Catholic faith; for the said infidel Sangleys are most vicious both with women and [with men] in an unnatural manner, and are extremely liberal in spending money for their purposes and desires, and artful and crafty for every form of evil.

"Moreover the Indian men and women of these Islands, especially those of the neighborhood of Manila, are very easily persuaded to carnal sins, in short, as natives of so hot and humid a climate; although it is a crime against nature, this is something they do not know, and in some regions they do not even have a word for it in their language, until these infidel Chinese made this sin known to them.

"And even this is not the only evil and danger, but as said Parian of the said infidels is midway between Manila and the said new settlement of the natives, every time those Indian men or women have to come to this city, they must do so by passing through the street of the said Parian of the said infidel Sangleys; and at morning, noon and night, the latter can securely plan and execute all their misdeeds. What is perhaps worst is that from birth, the Indians of this country, men and women, grow up in the water, bathing and swimming. The said Sangleys see them naked in the said creek, or at least in the river which is there, close to both districts. What with this unavoidable chance for caressing them, and particularly attracting the boys with fruits and other little presents, they must draw them into their own vices. This is particularly so as these boys actually go upon the bank in the district of the infidel Sangleys, and they disport, and enjoy themselves; and they are usually naked, or, if dressed, they are almost the same as naked."

Benavides' complaint goes on to state that the Japanese are just as bad in this unmentionable vice.

They say that truth is stranger than fiction, but the same can be said of history. But first, one must open the documents to find engaging stories.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Direct lending not for gov't

LETTERS TO THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THE EDITORIAL "MACRO CREDIT" (PDI, 10/16/06) raises a perfectly valid issue: the Philippine government's engaging in direct lending.

While the goal of poverty alleviation is the centerpiece of strategic policy in many emerging economies, it cannot justify government intervention in direct credit. No government in the world can claim success in direct lending operations. History has proven that this program is unsustainable. In the end, it is the taxpayer who foots the bill for opaque practices and failed portfolios. I have seen this rerun of credit failures as senior adviser for multilateral financial institutions in about a dozen countries, including Bangladesh.

Countries that have shown strides in microfinance limit government intervention to improving the policy environment and to providing sustainable support for market-based institutions. In turn, these institutions provide the delivery system for credits and technical assistance to micro-enterprises.

Microfinance operations involve high administrative costs, which governments do not have the capacity to redress, let alone match the high collection ratios of private entities.

At best, governments should remain as wholesalers, not retailers, of credits. The economic impact of private sector-led microfinance operations will be eminently positive, in contrast to the populist but fiscally disastrous practice of government lending directly to the end-users. The government can still take credit for a successful funding program through the private sector.

It is a glaring policy mistake to direct a government agency to carry out direct microfinance operations. The sooner government reverses this policy, the sooner the country can cut irretrievable losses.

—VICTOR S. BARRIOS,
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Needed: laws to improve public service

AS A NON-LAWYER AND A SIMPLE CITIZEN, I find it appalling, if not ridiculous, how the nation's attention has been diverted from the real issues of poverty, violence and injustice to the issue of Charter change, whose likely beneficiaries are the same people who want to retain or attain power.

May I simply remind our legislators that there are really very few important things that they need to do to pave the way for a much brighter future, a dream that has become ever more elusive with each passing day.

For instance, they can start by crafting laws that would dismantle political dynasties and warlordism; by modernizing the electoral process; by putting an end to the politics of patronage, guns, goons and gold; by cracking down on drug abuse, gambling, smuggling, bank robbery, car theft, kidnapping and other organized crimes; by breaking up business monopolies and cartels; by doing away with unfair trade practices; by improving the system of education; by providing young and old alike with employment opportunities where competence, not age, is an important criterion for hiring; by wiping out the bad labor practice of "contractualization"; by rationalizing the charters of government financial institutions; by cleaning up corrupt departments of government; by improving law enforcement; by supporting small-scale entrepreneurs; by declaring a moratorium on foreign debt service; by increasing tax collection capacity; by implementing and monitoring a genuine agrarian reform program; by taking back Marcos' wealth; by improving health care services and stopping the allocation of the notorious pork barrel.

In other words, we need laws that will improve the quality of public service. All of these need political will and statesmanship in the context of common good. Now tell us, dear legislators, of the above-suggestions, what can you not do under the present Constitution?

—REV. FR. FERDINAND T. HERNANDO, OAR, STL,
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Doles don't work

DESPITE A DISASTROUS EXPERIENCE WITH subsidized credit programs, Malacañang issued Executive Order 558 lifting the ban on direct loans by government non-financial agencies. The alleged purpose is to provide cheap credit for the poorest of the poor. This program had been abolished by former President Joseph Estrada because it had been found to be inefficient and costly to the government. (Most of the loans in the past had not been repaid, resulting in an estimated loss of P40 billion. Isn't such a loss, as well as the slew of local and international criticisms, enough to deter implementation of a program that was doomed from the start?) Not only has the program contributed to the country's fiscal burden, it also bred corruption and led to the demise of private sector-led microfinance programs, including rural banks.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, a Ph.D. in Economics, should put economics in the front seat and politics in the back seat—not the other way around. With elections less than a year from now, suspicions regarding the political motives behind such a resurrected program cannot be avoided. Why not invest hard-earned taxpayers' money in much-needed infrastructure and in the long-neglected social sectors, such as education and health services?

If government is really serious in helping the poor and in redressing the inequalities in our society, doles in the form of credit subsidies are not the answer. Empowering the poor through better social services and infrastructure is a more efficient and durable way of improving their well-being.

—ARJAY LOUIS BAUTISTA,
ANNA CARMINA MARTINEZ,
NOEL RICARDO OCAMPO REYES (IN BEHALF OF THE OTHER SOPHOMORES),
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UP School of Economics

Where to put billboards

THE BILLBOARD INDUSTRY—OR THE OUTdoor industry—has taken the center stage, thanks to typhoon Milenyo.

Toppled super-giant boards hit a passenger bus and an FX van. One died. Big billboards fell on the NLEX and SLEX. Fallen billboards stalled traffic for days, inconveniencing hundreds and even thousands of daily commuters. "Super" billboard structures should not have been allowed by the government "because they are hazards to life and limb. They now "decorate" Edsa and other major thoroughfares in the metropolis, thus also causing serious visual pollution and destroying every bit of beautiful scenery, natural or man-made.

What to do? As a "billboard practitioner" for the past 40 years, here is my take.

Outdoor advertising is an industry. It came much earlier than the electronic media—TV and radio. It has thousands of dependents. It has a strong association—the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP)—with dedicated officers and members. The OAAP has about 50 member-companies. However, there are more than 150 signmakers and/or billboard practitioners nationwide, who are operating outside the OAAP umbrella. The key to the problem at hand—oversized billboards, multiple structures, indecent, illustrations—is very simple.

1. Malacañang should issue an executive order banning all forms of billboards—whether anchored on ground, or a wall or a rooftop—and posters on posts, underpasses and overpasses along Edsa and Roxas Boulevard. OAAP member-companies should be allowed to operate at the NLEX, SLEX and other secondary routes in Metro Manila. The idea is sweeping but effective. That done, at least, two major thoroughfares in Metro Manila will get a fresh, nature-friendly look for the next generation to enjoy.

2. The EO will not be enough. More importantly, there is a need to reorganize, reorient, even remove corrupt people issuing permits in towns and cities. Unless this section of the government, the final link in the installation of billboards, is corrected, no amount of privilege speeches, or monitoring and so-called controls by the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways will ever remove the billboard blight that is upon us.

The outdoor advertising industry has also the right to exist. As an advertising medium, billboards provide prime, low-cost ad spaces for goods and services. Consumer buying propels the engines of manufacturing that ultimately provide jobs—thousands of jobs—for Filipinos.

—AMADOR MORILES,
former board member,
Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines,
Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite

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US projects stopped after kidnappings

ZAMBOANGA CITY—SULU GOV. BENJAMIN LOONG WARNED the kidnappers of three engineers and a driver that they face untold consequences if they do not release the captives immediately.

Loong also ordered a halt work on the US-funded construction projects in the province until the kidnap victims are freed.

One of the kidnapped engineers, Romeo Rivera, was working on a road project funded by the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM), the implementing body of US Agency for International Development (USAID) projects in Mindanao.

Rivera was with two friends—Reynaldo Rubio and Larry Bautista—and a driver, Isidro Amarado, when they were kidnapped by armed men in Parang town on Tuesday afternoon.

Loong said he has been in touch with the "relatives and the immediate family" of the suspects, whom he did not identify, to negotiate for the release of the victims.

"I also directed the kidnappers to return the victims or face [the] consequences," said Loong, without elaborating on what those consequences would be.

The governor said he would not enter into any ransom negotiations and would not entertain any demands, telling the kidnappers to "just turn over to us all the victims safely."

Senior Supt. Ahirum Adjirim, the Sulu police chief, identified two of the suspects as Adznar Ibnaihi and Bong Sakandal.

Adjirim said Sakandal is in the employ of Maas Abda, the chief of security of the GEM construction facilities and equipment in Parang. Abda is Sakandal's uncle-in-law.

"They [the suspects] are not Abu Sayyaf. We sense that there's an internal problem in the [GEM] operation. The Abu Sayyaf is out of the picture here," Adjirim added.

Police have recovered the government-owned pick-up which the victims were using when they were abducted. It was found in Lanao Dakula in Parang on Wednesday morning.

Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, chief of Task Force Comet, said three battalions of soldiers under the 104th Brigade were dispatched to Parang and nearby municipalities to search for and rescue the victims.

Sabban said their operation was independent of negotiations being conducted for the victims' release.

But Col. Pablo Lorenzo, chief of the 35th Infantry Battalion, said the military would give way to any negotiations.

"But if talks fail, then we will launch a full-scale operation against the kidnappers," he said.

Rivera is from Davao City and is an employee of the Monolithic Construction and Concretes that the GEM had contracted to build the road.

According to Loong, Bautista and Rubio were employees of the Manila-based Terra Syme Chemical who had gone to Sulu in hopes of getting a subcontract from the GEM project.

Amarado is a Zamboangueño who works for Loong as a family driver and carpenter.

Troops have already traced the movements of the armed men but have not attacked them to allow negotiations to proceed, said local Army commander Col. Reynaldo Selana.

"We have already set up blockades in the area," he said, adding that the provincial governor has formed a negotiating team to "convince them to free the hostages."

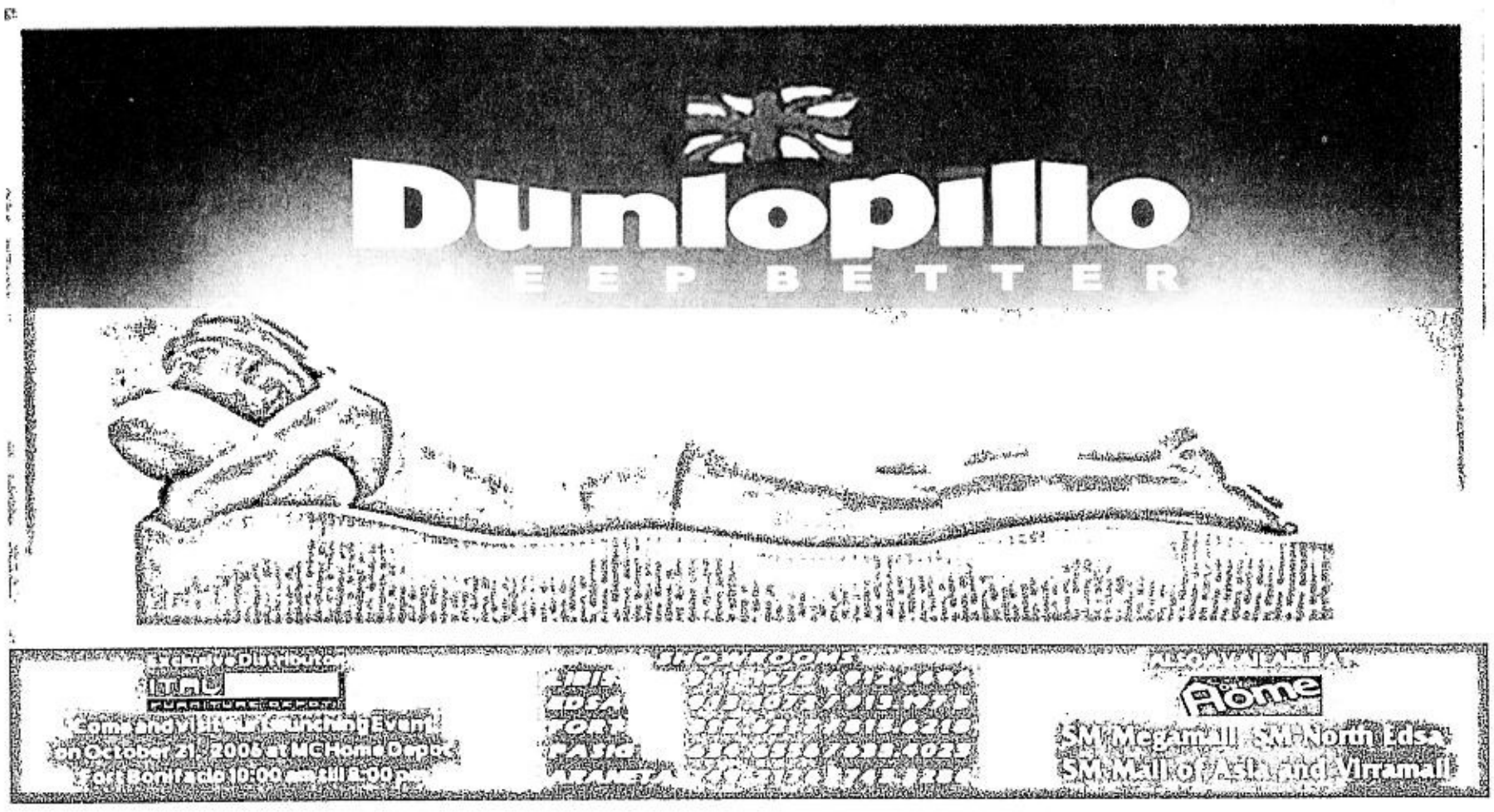
"If negotiations fail, we will go in," Selana warned.

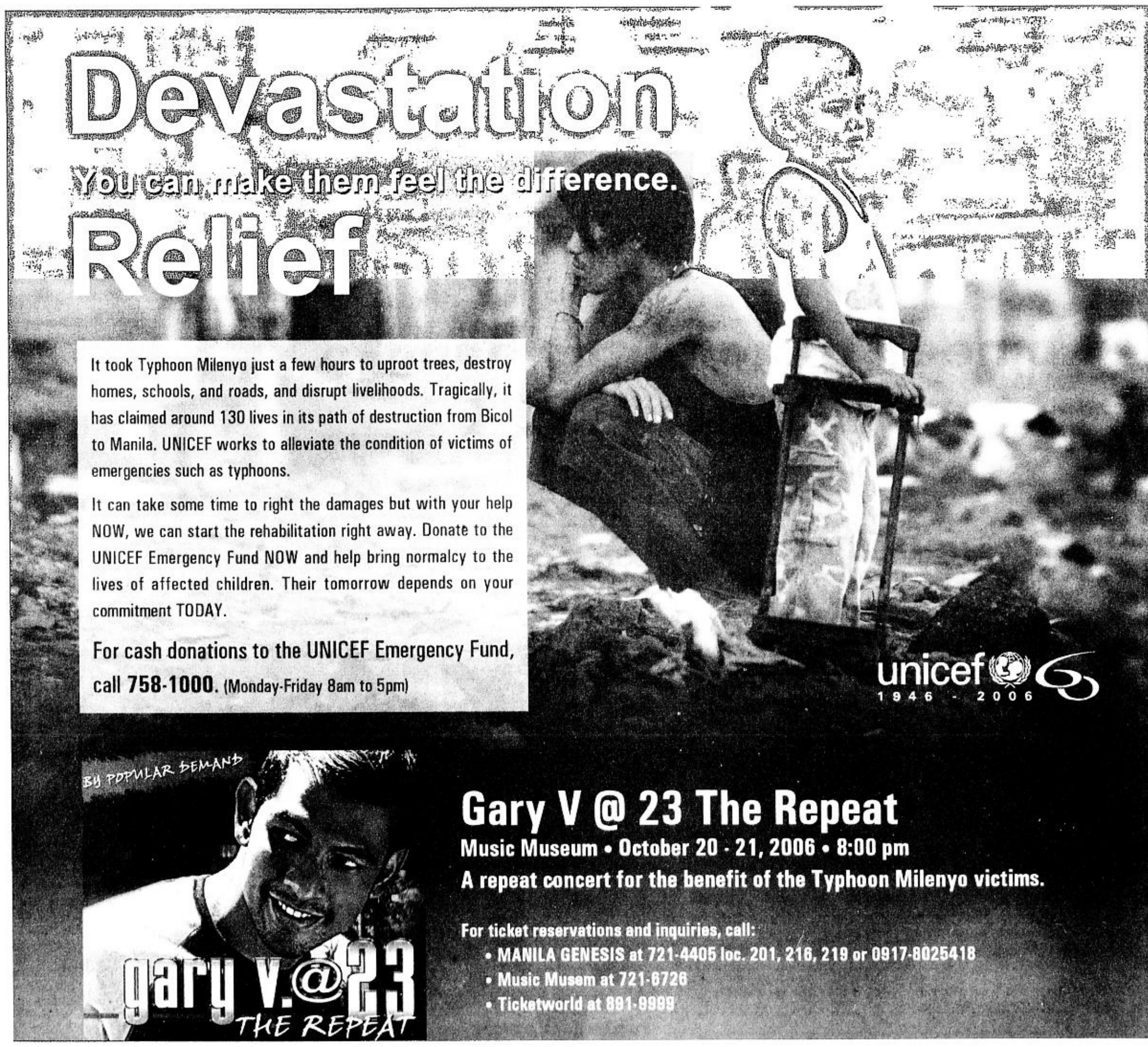
The kidnappers were identified as Jolo natives hired to work as security guards for the project, which is part of the US government's long-term development aid to the impoverished south.

Those kidnapped Romeo Rivera, an engineer of a private firm contracted to work on the project which is partly funded by a US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Selana's driver and and two consultants from a Manila-based private firm were also taken by the gunmen. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao with a report from AFP*

'Just turn over to us all the victims safely'





DENR stops operations of Palawan mining firm

By Blanche S. Rivera
in Manila
and Jofelle Tesorio,
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE GOVERNMENT HAS stopped the operations of Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) in Palawan after the firm was found to have over-extracted metals during its year-long operations in the province.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes cancelled the environmental compliance certificate (ECC) of PGMC and Olympic Mines and Development Corp., which leased its mining tenement to PGMC, due to various violations of the ECC.

"It is clear in the submitted report of the investigating team ... that the PGMC ... is overextracting beyond what are issued by the ECC," Reyes said in his order dated Sept. 25.

The investigating team, led by the Environmental Management Bureau, found that PGMC has already extracted 282,729.35 tons of nickel as of September, more than five times the 50,000-ton annual extraction rate allowed by its ECC.

There were recent reports that the PGMC was able to mine and export to Australia some 300,000 metric tons of ore in only two years of operations in Narra, Palawan.

Other violations

The DENR order also cited other ECC violations, including pollution generated by mining as evidenced from the farmers' complaint letters, mining outside the boundaries of its small scale mining permit, construction of a 6-km road in Sitio Jambangan without a permit, and mining contrary to the plan submitted by PGMC to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"PGMC is undertaking high-grading operation which leaves behind patches of valuable low grade nickel resources," Reyes said.

PGMC last year acquired a permit from Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, chair of the provincial mines and regulatory board, to extract 10.3 million tons of laterite and saprolite nickel ores in Barangay San Isidro in Narra and Barangays Pulot Interior, Punang, Labog, all of Sofronio Espanola.

Appeal rejected

The EMB wrote PGMC's Benjamin Obra on Sept. 11 to inform the company of its violations. The PGMC appealed the notice of violation but it was rejected by the DENR.

"They immediately stopped when the order was served," DENR regional director Vicente Paragas said.

According to Elizabeth Maclang, project coordinator of the Palawan NGO Network Inc. (PNNI), an umbrella organization of non-government organizations in Palawan, they received information that the ECC of PGMC was cancelled effective Sept. 25.

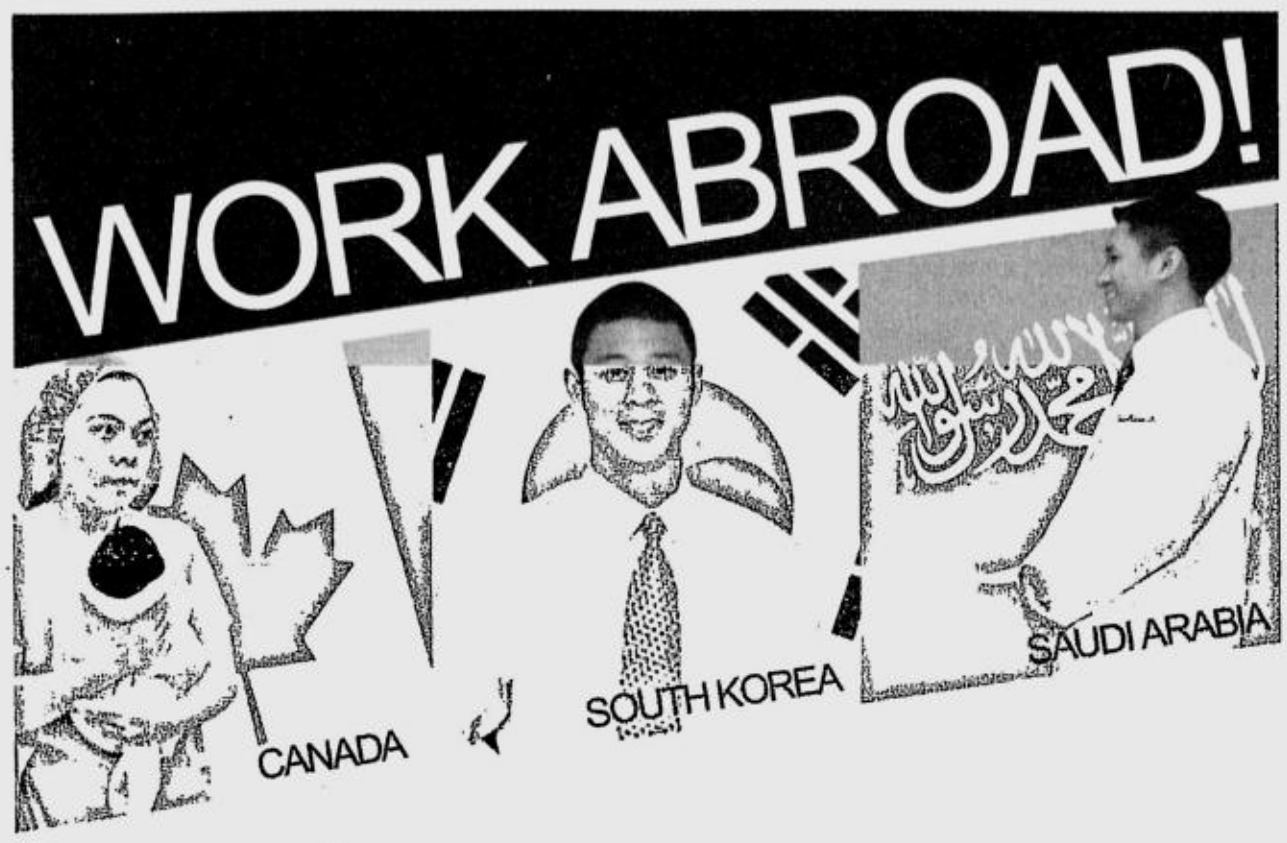
But PNNI has yet to send a request letter to Secretary Reyes for the copy of the order of cancellation.

Maclang said that the small scale mining permit issued to PGMC by Governor Reyes should have been canceled as well.

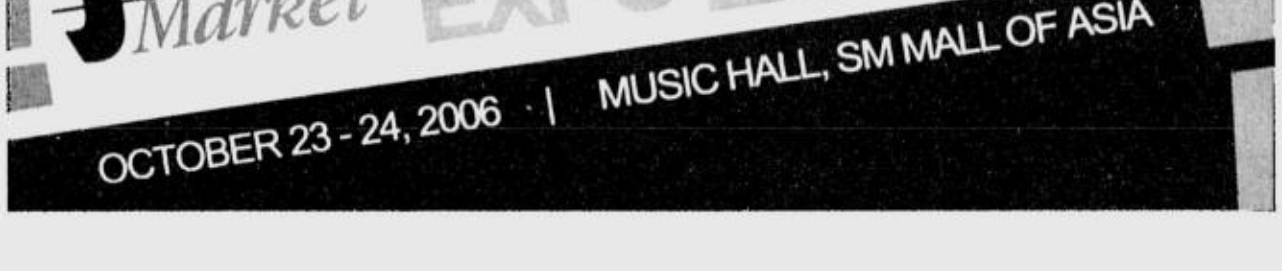
According to the communities living in the area where PGMC operates, the company has stopped extracting mineral ore since the issuance of the cancellation order.

In August, a network of NGOs in Manila composed of organizations like Defend Patrimony, Brigadang Berde and Concerned Citizens Against Pollution said they filed complaint documents at the provincial government and the regional office of the DENR pointing to environmental damage allegedly caused by the illegal operations of PGMC in Narra, Palawan.

PGMC officials, according to sources, are expected to appeal DENR's order.



SENATOR Gordon and US Ambassador Kristie Kenney distribute relief goods to residents of Sorsogon during their visit to the province to inspect the destruction wrought by Typhoon Milenyo. Gordon later said the disaster was worse than those he had seen before, including the Guinsaugon landslide and the Petron oil spill in Guimaras.
BOBBY LABALAN/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON



Senator says Sorsogon destruction 'enormous'

SORSOGON CITY—DURING HIS VISIT HERE Thursday, Sen. Richard Gordon, national chair of the Philippine National Red Cross, was struck by the enormity of the destruction wrought by Typhoon Milenyo in the province of Sorsogon, saying it was far worse than the Guinsaugon tragedy in Leyte or the Guimaras oil spill.

Gordon was with US Ambassador Kristie Kenney and International Red Cross head George Brock, who distributed relief goods at the Sorsogon provincial gymnasium for at least 1,000 families from various barangays suffering from the effects of the calamity.

The senator said the devastation was beyond what they anticipated and called on the national government and other relief organizations to help the suffering Sorsogueños.

Kenney expressed her sympathy to the people and assured her government's continued "partnership with the people of the Philippines in addressing the humanitarian and health needs caused by this natural disaster."

The US government donated $100,000 to PNRC which it used to purchase essential supplies like blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, water containers and hygiene kits for the typhoon victims.

Brock, meanwhile, said the current calamity was beyond the capacity of the local governments of Sorsogon to resolve, having been previously devastated by the explosion of Bulusan volcano.

Brock stressed that the typhoon season is not over yet in the Philippines so that whatever funds left in the coffers of the LGUs should be reserved for future needs.

He added that the situation in Sorsogon is "exceptional" and that the needs of the people were "enormous."

Sorsogon suffered the heaviest damage during Typhoon Milenyo with rehabilitation cost estimated to reach over P1 billion.

The PNRC said that aside from the US government, other donations came from the governments of France, New Zealand and Australia.

Earlier, in a visit to the INQUIRER, Casiguran, Sorsogon Mayor Edwin Hamor said there was barely any help reaching his town and appealed for donations for the rehabilitation of damaged buildings and aid to residents suffering from the typhoon's effects.

Hamor said politics was also interfering in the flow of aid to his town, but refused to elaborate.

A group of Sorsogon natives residing in Metro Manila have launched a fund campaign to raise enough money to bring Sorsogon back to its feet.

Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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INQUIRER

Troops stumble on NPA camp in Quezon

CAMP NAKAR, LUCENA CITY—GOVERNMENT soldiers discovered a suspected abandoned camp of New People's Army guerrillas in a remote village of Catanauan town in Quezon province on Wednesday, the military said Thursday.

In a report, Maj. General Alexander Yano, head of the military's Southern Luzon Command based here, said troops from the Alpha Company-74th Infantry Battalion, led by 2Lt. Jeffrey Bugnosen, overran the hastily abandoned NPA camp in Sitio (sub-village) Suha A in the village of San Pablo Suha.

Report said the camp can accommodate at least 80 persons and was believed being used as a training and logistics base of the communist guerrillas.

Soldiers are still in the area tracking down the escaping rebels.

Yano said the presence of the NPA camp was made known to the military following the residents' increasing complaints of alleged NPA extortion activities.

The recent surrender of a ranking NPA leader, Vinceph Asegurado alias Ka Rommel, validated the information surrounding the presence of the training camp.

Asegurado also surrendered his M14 rifle with six magazines and 90 rounds of ammunition. *Delfin Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

FARMERS try to push their way past a phalanx of policemen who prevented them from marching to Manila in protest of the unsolved murders of leftists and ongoing military exercises between the Philippines and United States. The group, according to policemen, also planned to join sympathizers of embattled Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay who is getting the support of opposition and leftist groups. Residents gathered by the military joined in blocking the leftist march but cool heads prevailed to prevent a violent clash. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

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Cops, troops, residents block farmers in caravan

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Some 500 militant farmers taking part in a Central Luzon-wide caravan against political killings and American war games were stopped on Thursday by about 200 government soldiers and residents in the Pampanga capital of San Fernando and blocked four times by policemen on their way to this ecozone and Manila.

Members of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (AMGL) first found themselves confronted by the residents who took position at the intersection of Barangay Sindalan.

Residents, accompanied by junior Army officers, shouted anti-leftist and anti-communist slogans, heckling the farmers for opposing the government.

They went after the AMGL contingent all the way from the Scholastica's Academy where the farmers spent the night on Wednesday.

"*Lumayas kayo* (Go away)," yelled the residents gathered by the Army from the villages of Mexico town and City of San Fernando. They were among those who joined the rallies organized by the Army and village officials on Tuesday.

As the residents went on with the taunting, the farmers stayed seated in their hired vehicles and did not provoke a fight.

1st Lt. Reah Marzan, civil-military operations head of the 69th Infantry Battalion, said she stopped one of the residents from seizing AMGL banners.

Joseph Canlas, AMGL chair, said a soldier in plainclothes tried to penetrate the AMGL ranks but was stopped by the caravan marshals.

By about the same time, the police blocked the route to conduct an inspection for firearms. The caravan was delayed for an hour, and ended at around 11:30 a.m.

The residents left and held a "victory lunch" at the Quebiawan gym in San Fernando.

Canlas said the "obstacles" met on Thursday came on the heels of harassment by the military that delayed the caravan by three days.

Senior Supt. Enrico Salapong, San Fernando police chief, said checkpoints had been set up since Wednesday to guard against bombings, crimes and possible streaming of supporters of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay.

The caravan was briefly stalled by another police blockade at the San Fernando-Angeles City boundary.

At Mabalacat town's First Street, where the farmers began marching toward Clark's main gate, the police fielded at least two SWAT teams to stop the rally.

The permit issued by Mayor Carmelo Lazatin allowed a rally in Angeles City, not in front of Clark, a police official told AMGL leaders during the negotiation.

The farmers marched on but were blocked by two police vans at a corner leading to the gate, a kilometer away. The gate was cordoned off with barbed wires. Inside, American troops participating in the Talon Vision and Amphibious Landing Exercises proceeded with their flight training.

The farmers stood their ground, staying there for five minutes as they shouted slogans condemning the military exercises.

By 2 p.m., all 14 vehicles of the AMGL now bound for Manila were stopped at the Dau gate of the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx). These were supposed to join the Lakbayan ng Anakpawis Laban sa Kahirapan, Kagutuman, Pamamaslang at Charter Change ng Rehimeng US-Arroyo.

Roman Polintan, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Central Luzon, said more than 100 anti-riot policemen blocked the route.

By 2:30 p.m., the police sent two fire trucks to fortify the gate. Traffic at the southbound lanes stalled.

The caravan proceeded to the NLEx later in the afternoon.

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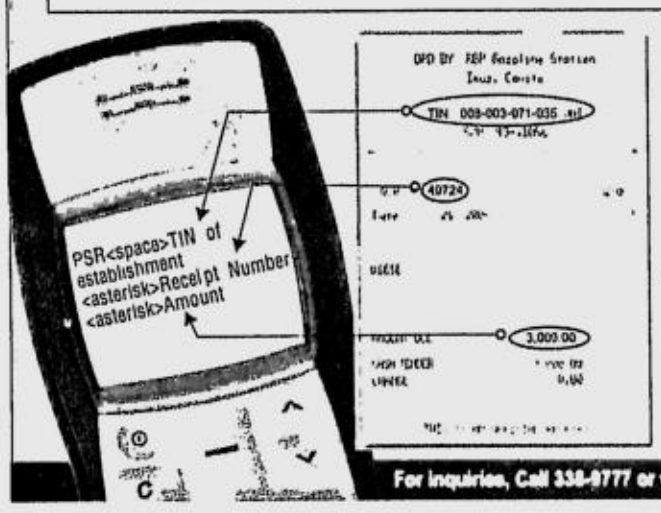

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NBI raid on Internet gaming office bares illegal gambling in Clark area

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon
and Margaux Ortiz
in Manila

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—A company here stopped operations on Wednesday after the National Bureau of Investigation raided the firm over alleged unauthorized Internet gaming operations.

At least 50 employees of the British Grand Vision were left without work after some 30 NBI agents and personnel of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. confiscated the firm's computers and office equipment, said Ireneo Alvaro, BGV spokesperson.

The NBI raided the BGV on Tuesday night on the request of Pagcor.

Levy Laus, president and chief executive officer of the Clark Development Corp., said the NBI showed a copy of a search warrant for the 7 p.m. raid. Officials from the NBI's special action unit did not leave a copy or an after-operations report, he said.

Lauro Reyes, NBI director in Central Luzon, said the Manila unit coordinated with his office and did not involve any local agents. Reyes confirmed the raid was done on Pagcor's request.

Clark license

Alvaro said the BGV, which has been doing business here since last year, is a "legitimate company operating with license from the CDC."

CDC records showed the BGV to be a properly registered company.

Alvaro said his firm is "engaged in information technology such as operations and maintenance of Internet data center and services such as, but not limited to, animated, simulated and interactive Internet gaming services."

Its services are exclusive to regional and global market clients, he said.

In the warrant, he said NBI agents alleged the company to be violating Presidential Decree 1602, the old law against illegal gambling.

"We're not in anything illegal," Alvaro said.

He said the raid surprised the employees, many of them cried.

Laus ordered an independent investigation while Alvaro said company lawyers would dispute Pagcor's allegation in court.

The NBI in Manila said at least P30 million worth of expensive cyber equipment used in illegal online gambling were seized during the raid.

NBI Director Nestor Mantaring said the virtual casino was operated by British Grand Vision International, or Transglobal Pacific Airways Inc., located at Transglobal Building, Andrew Street, Civil Aviation Complex, A. Bonifacio, Hangar 7260, Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ), Angeles City.

Seized equipment

The pieces of equipment, which were loaded in three trucks, are now stored at a warehouse in Taguig City, according to Mantaring.

According to NBI Special Action Unit (SAU) chief Vicente de Guzman III, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) filed a complaint at the NBI regarding the company's illegal operations.

Pagcor Chair Ephraim Genuino, through his chief legal counsel Carlos Bautista Jr., said that the British Grand Vision International had begun operating an Internet casino without any permit from the government agency early this year.

The Pagcor officials also told the NBI that the online casino was so profitable that casinos inside the Clark Special Economic Zone "have been losing money."

De Guzman said that after applying for a search warrant, the agents raided the establishment and seized casino tables; dealers' chairs and fixtures; TV sets; casino playing cards; "shoe boxes" for the playing cards; computers with plasma screens; webcams and digital video cameras; and servers used to send live casino games to the Internet.

Pangasinan mayor with 8 graft raps faces suspension

By Norman Bordadora

A GROUP OF PANGASINENSES YESTERDAY asked the Ombudsman to suspend San Carlos City Mayor Julian Resuello just like it did to opposition Metro Manila Mayors Wenceslao Trinidad of Pasay and Jejomar Binay of Makati.

Resuello is the subject of complaints for graft, gross abuse of authority and falsification of public documents filed in February 2006 in connection with a land-clearing project that left several families homeless but paved the way for the construction of a shopping mall.

One of the complainants, Carlito Naval, filed the motion for a preventive suspension against Resuello in the wake of the suspensions slapped against Trinidad and Binay while the Ombudsman investigated their graft cases.

The group of complainants said they are hoping that the Ombudsman will see the merit in suspending Resuello despite his running and having won the San Carlos mayoralty race under the administration party Lakas-CMD.

Trinidad and Binay are opposition members.

Resuello is accused of forcing several families in 2000 and 2001 out of their homes where they have been living for more than 50 years.

Case records showed that the demolition was part of a land-clearing project that also resulted in the tearing down of the Central II Elementary School. The transfer of the school to a new location, some 3 km away, brought down enrollment in the school as it moved the school farther from its pupils, many of whom could not afford daily tricycle rides to attend classes.

A letter dated July 3, 2000 signed by Caesar T. Corpus, city legal officer, said the eviction was part of "the city's intention to rid (the) banks of (Cava Creek) of all improvement, structures/encroachments which tend to obstruct the flow and navigability of the said creek."

The complainants, however, said a new branch of CSI City Mall was constructed this year on the old school site and the old residential lots became part of its parking lot. The mall was inaugurated in June.

The group said they have been harassed by the mayor in connection with the case against him.

"The respondent's continued stay in office may prejudice the cases filed against them as they may take actions to suppress the (pieces of) evidence against them," Naval said in his motion filed by his counsel, Joel Ferrer.

In a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Resuello said the filing of the case against him was "mere harassment" from a rival political family in the city.

He also said his rivals "are putting words into the mouth of Malacañang and the Ombudsman" by saying the case was already up for resolution.

"We should have been informed that the case will be resolved soon. The truth is, we are still in the process of filing affidavits and counter affidavits," he said, adding that he hoped that his rivals will wait for the decision of the court and not resort to what he said were publicity stunts.

He expressed confidence that he will be exonerated by the court.

Ombudsman Merceditas Guttierez has ordered Deputy Ombudsman Victor Fernandez, who has been investigating the case for two years, to elevate three of the eight graft charges against Resuello for her review.

One of the charges Resuello is facing is the use of an alleged fake loan certificate to allow the city government to borrow P100 million from the Philippine National Bank (PNB) to pay for dredging equipment. *With reports from Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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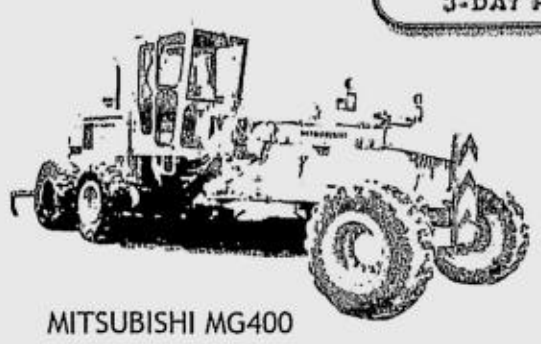
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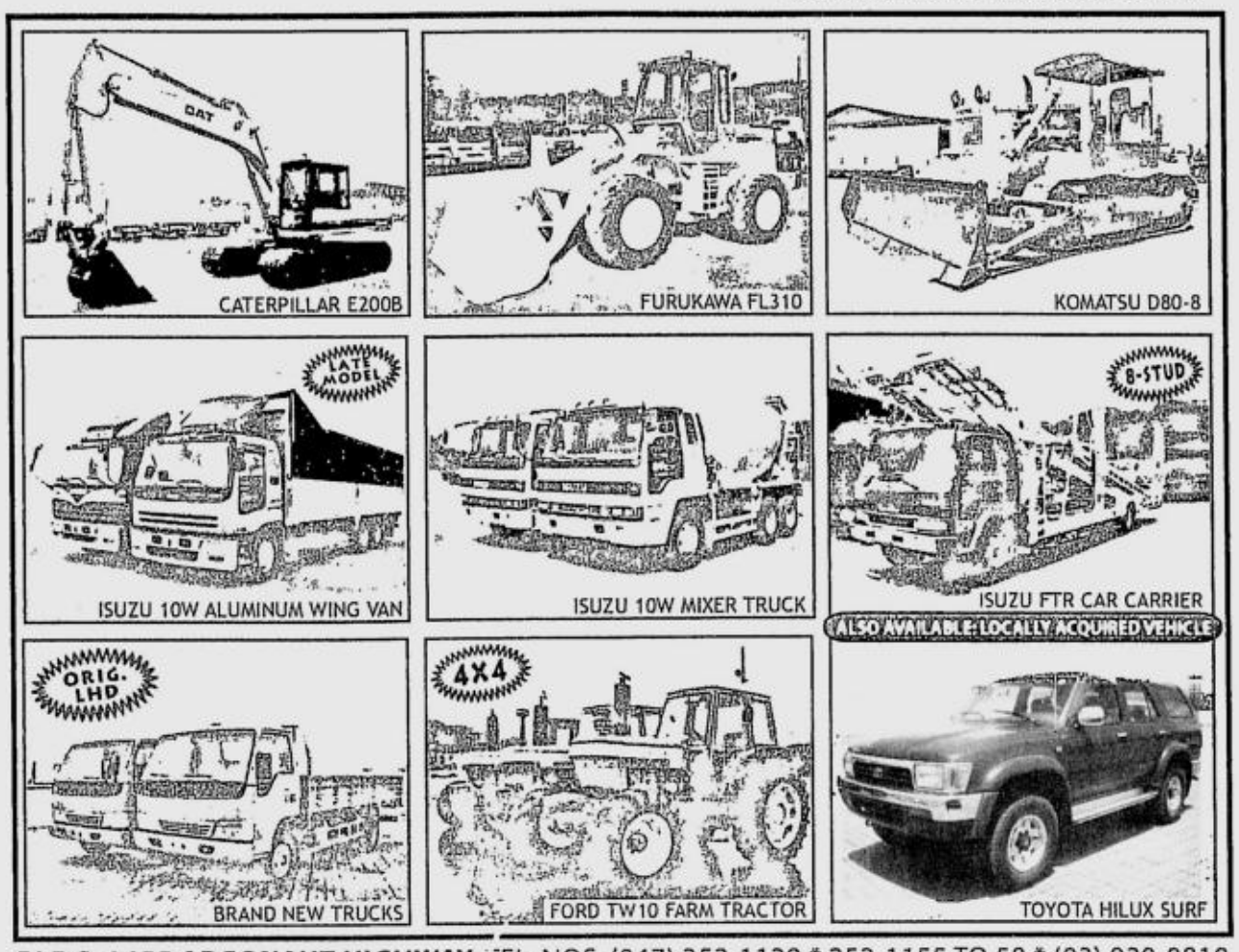

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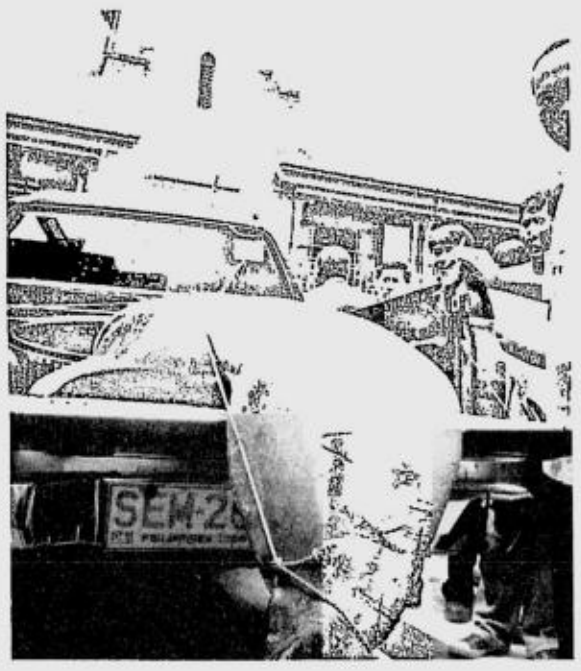

THE CARCASS of a dolphin in Zamboanga City is being inspected by personnel from the Bureau of Food and Aquatic Resources. BFAR officials said the dolphin could have ingested plastics or planktons smeared with oil.

JULIE ALIPALA/ INQUIRER MINDANAO

Experts tell villagers how to rescue dolphins

SAN FABIAN, PANGASINAN—Approach them with care. Prevent further injury. Protect the eyes, the blowhole and the pectoral fins. Keep them comfortable.

These are lessons that village officials of this town, where a stranded dolphin died three weeks ago, learned from the Ocean Adventure in Subic Bay during a lecture on rescuing beached marine mammals here.

Westly Rosario, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources research center in Dagupan City, said the lecture was part of the Fishery Conservation Week celebration.

"Many sea mammals beach in the coastal towns of the province, and most of the villagers do not know how to handle or rescue them. Thus we decided to hold the lecture," Rosario said.

Wayne Phillips, Ocean Adventure's vice president for zoological operations, said the lecture also sought to make villagers appreciate the fact that there are different species of marine mammals like dolphins, whales and *dugong* (sea cows) in the country.

"The awareness of the people on the marine mammals would increase the survival rate of stranded animals," Phillips said, adding that these animals are "important, interesting and intelligent."

Mariel Buccat, a veterinarian of the Ocean Adventure, said many people are now reporting about beached marine mammals to agencies like BFAR.

"That we are hearing of many beached marine mammals may not mean that many of them are stranding but perhaps because reports of stranding have increased," she said.

Another development is that the fishermen's children are telling their parents that eating dolphin meat is prohibited by law. "Maybe the children learned that in school," she said.

Stranding, according to a brochure of the Philippine Marine Mammal Stranding Network (PMMSN), happens when the animal has come up to shore and is helpless, or is entangled in a net. Without help, the animal will die.

Buccat said the possible causes of stranding are illnesses, malnutrition, natural toxins, parasitic infectious diseases, physical injuries (such as bites from sharks) or from human activities like hunting.

Other causes are powerful noises under the water such as dynamite blasts, which damage their hearing and their ability to navigate.

Whales and dolphins live in families and their social bonds are so strong that when one strands, others may follow, the PMMSN said.

Ingestion of thrash is another cause. Buccat said a stranded dolphin brought to the Ocean Adventure looked healthy and had no physical injury but died days after. When the animal's stomach was opened up, it was full of plastic bags and bottles that it ingested, causing its death.

Single stranding could mean that the animal is very sick and that generally, a marine mammal comes to beach to die.

Phillips said the average lifespan of marine mammals is 20 years, and that the more scratches on their skin, the older they are.

Marine mammals in the Philippines are protected by law. It is illegal to catch, sell, buy, possess, transport or export them, dead or alive, according to the PMMSN.

Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon

ADBOARD

POLICY STATEMENT OF THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY ON THE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING (BILLBOARDS) ISSUE

We, the members of ADBOARD, in our advertising activities and specifically on outdoor advertising, are committed to abide by the laws of the land, and shall consider public safety and welfare as paramount. We shall not patronize nor contract for outdoor ads that violate the law as provided in the National Building Code (P.D. 1096).

The Advertising Board of the Philippines (ADBOARD), together with all its member organizations, recognizes the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP) as the self-regulatory representative in the outdoor advertising industry. Outdoor advertising companies which are non-OAAP members should abide by the provisions of the National Building Code (P.D.1096).

The ADBOARD, in consultation with its members, shall establish and submit to the appropriate government bodies, the specifications for billboards, harmonious to the environment where the billboards are situated.

We, the members of the advertising industry, reserve the right to use all available media, including outdoor advertising, in order to provide consumers with the necessary information to help them make intelligent choices and provided that these media adhere to the laws, rules and regulations governing the advertising industry.

The Advertising Board of the Philippines (ADBOARD) is the umbrella organization composed of eight national organizations involved in advertising practice and is committed to promote the development of the advertising industry through self-regulation; and in so doing, dedicates its efforts to uplift the welfare of the Filipino consumer.

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'METRO IS SAFE'

Text on terror? Pass it to PNP

POLICE YESTERDAY CAUTIONED THE JITTERY PUBLIC not to take seriously cell phone text messages warning about terror attacks on malls in Metro Manila.

The Philippine National Police issued an advisory after people reported receiving text messages about a supposed attack this weekend and being asked by anonymous senders to pass them on.

"If they ask you to pass on the messages, pass them to our text hotline so we will validate the information," said PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. over dzBB radio. The PNP text hotline is 2920.

The country has been on high alert after police blamed al-Qaida-linked militants from the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah and the local Abu Sayyaf group for three bombings in Mindanao last week, including an Oct. 10 attack that killed six people and wounded 29.

Security was increased in the capital, but police decided to lower the alert status yesterday, saying there were no specific threats.

PNP Chief Director Gen. Oscar Calderon said on Tuesday that a text message that has been circulating about an alleged bomb attack on a shopping mall in Mandaluyong was not true but was part of a destabilization campaign.

According to the text message, a member of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang had turned himself in and revealed an ASG plan to bomb the shopping mall.

Calderon also said the police had no specific information on a British embassy report that terrorists were about to attack Mindanao nor about a military report saying that two members of the Rajah Sulaiman Movement were operating just outside the capital and poised to attack Metro Manila.

"Metro Manila is safe. We have no specific information about a threat in Metro Manila," he said.

Text messages are often used to incite the public to join political rallies, or to spread rumors about possible attacks. Cheap and fast texting is extremely popular, and the Philippines has a reputation of being the world's texting capital. *AP*

Bill seeks to ban racial, religious profiling

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHILE RELIGION-INSPIRED TERRORISM IS on the rise, the House of Representatives has approved on second reading a bill prohibiting various forms of religious or racial discrimination, particularly against members of cultural minorities in the country.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Faysah RPM Dumarpa said the House committee on cultural communities earlier this month unanimously approved House Bill 5837 or the Anti-Religious and Racial Profiling Act of 2006. The bill has yet to pass third and final reading in the House before it is elevated to the Senate.

"The proposed measure prohibits acts such as subjecting a person to "unnecessary, unjustified, illegal or degrading searches because of the manner by which he or she is dressed or by reason of his religion, color, creed or ethnic identity."

The bill penalizes discrimination against members of cultural communities when it comes to job application; it prohibits restaurants, hotels and other public establishments from banning entry to persons in "traditional but peculiar attire."

Dumarpa charged that racial profiling against Muslims had become more prevalent after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York.

"We Muslims have always been the usual suspects whenever something wrong happens in the world," the lawmaker said. But Muslims are followers of the Islamic faith which abhors acts of violence and injustice," she added.

Anak Mindanao party-list Rep. Mujiv Hataman, a co-author of the bill, said the bill strengthens the state policy to "value the dignity of every human being and guarantee full respect for human rights."

Besides Dumarpa and Hataman, the other authors of the bill include Representatives Solomon Chungalao (Ifugao), Luis Bersamin (Abra), Mauricio Domogan (Baguio City), and Laurence Wacnang (Kalinga)—all members of various cultural minority groups.

According to Bersamin, the committee agreed that racial profiling should be defined as "relying to any degree on race, ethnicity and religious affiliation in selecting individuals for employment, entry to an establishment or subjecting people to routine and spontaneous investigative activities."

Dumarpa said media was also guilty of discrimination for employing religious characterization, such as the use of the word Muslim, "when geographic, political, socio-economic or other distinction might be more accurate."

"The bill supports the constitutional guarantee of equal protection and religious freedom for all persons, regardless of their cultural background, or chosen form of religion," she said.

If the bill is eventually passed into law, violators would be face imprisonment of less than two years or a fine ranging from P200 to P6,000.

Civilian comptroller for AFP eyed

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO HELP STAMP OUT CORRUPTION IN THE armed forces, a ranking administration lawmaker yesterday called on the Senate to pass a bill creating an all-civilian comptroller's office for the military.

House Deputy Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas urged the Senate to pass House Bill 3370, which seeks to institute more rigorous financial controls and internal checks against corruption in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

The House-approved bill, which will now be elevated to the Senate, calls for the creation of a new Office of the Comptroller of the AFP, to replace the entire Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership, also known as J-6, with an all-civilian staff.

"Thus, it would be totally insulated from pressures in the military culture that could lead to corruption," the lawmaker said.

The J-6, which handles the finance management of the entire AFP, needs to be replaced because it had become "notorious as a graft-prone office," Gullas said.

Onetime comptroller of the AFP, retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, is facing graft charges for allegedly amassing P285-million worth of ill-gotten riches.

A comptroller supervises financial services, including accounting of receipts and expenditure; internal audit; financial advice in procurement; payments and disbursements; and maintenance of pay, works, cost and other accounts.

To further reinforce administrative controls against corruption, Gullas also urged the Senate to approve HB 4870, which proposes to build up the AFP's Office of the Inspector General.

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
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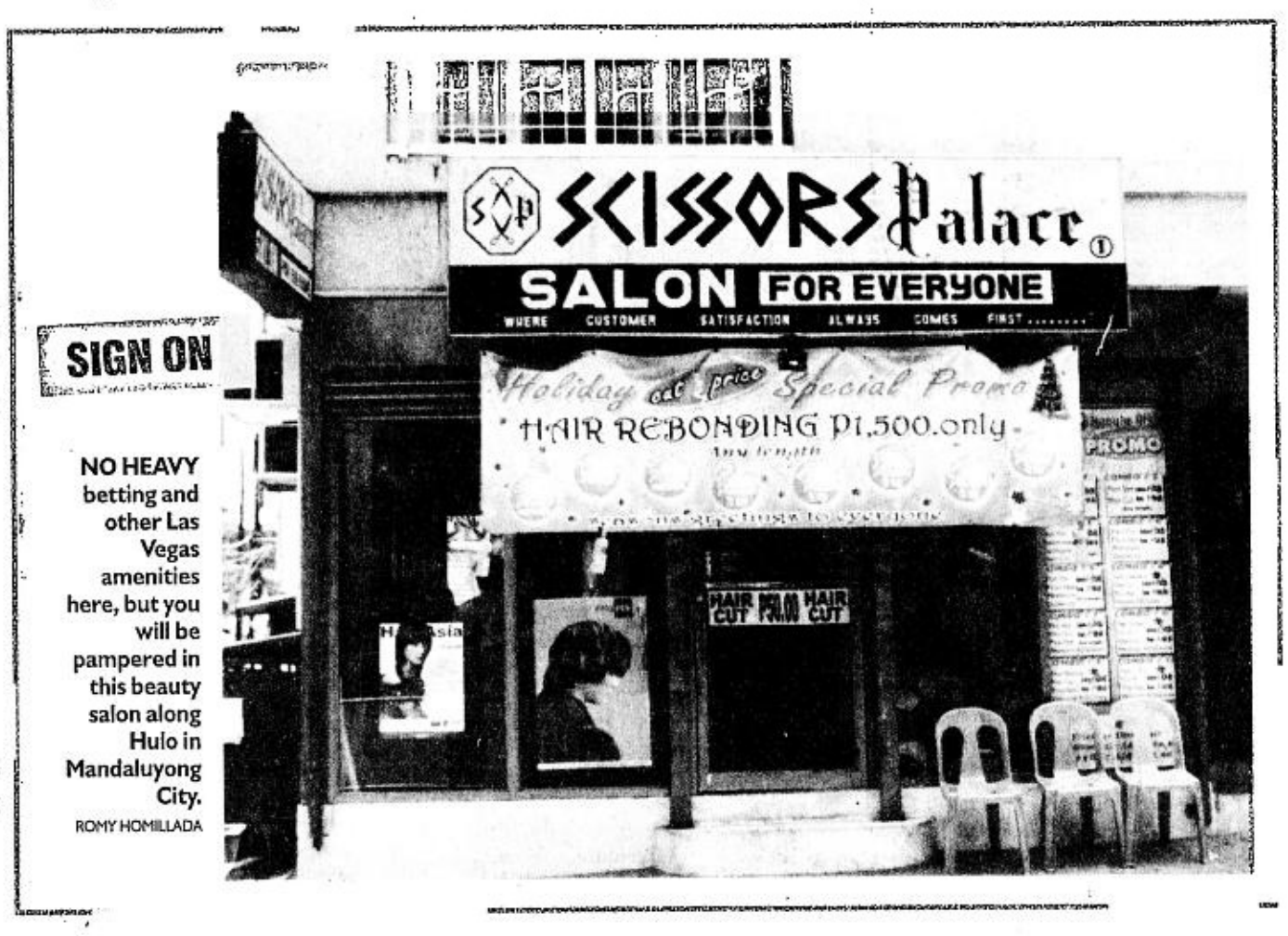
Tutors, unions seek PCU prexy's ouster

Top official, board members asked to account for school funds



NO HEAVY betting and other Las Vegas amenities here, but you will be pampered in this beauty salon along Hulo in Mandaluyong City.
ROMY HOMILLADA

By Tina G. Santos

OVER 30 TEACHERS AND STAFFERS OF the Philippine Christian University (PCU) on Taft Avenue, Manila yesterday staged a walkout to press their demand for the resignation of Dr. Oscar Suarez, the university president.

Clad in black T-shirts, the protesters criticized Suarez for his alleged involvement in anomalies concerning PCU funds.

The accusations against Suarez were the basis of corruption charges filed against him and other PCU board members on Tuesday in the Manila Regional Trial Court.

The case was filed by PCU corporate member Bishop Emerito Nacpil and board members Anacleto Fontanilla and Sofronio Larcia.

Ellen Naluz, secretary and spokesperson of PCU Staff Union—one of three union organizations at the university—said the walkout was a "community action" aimed at voicing their displeasure over Suarez's management.

Naluz said her group had formed an alliance with the university's two other union organizations to push for Suarez's resignation.

She claimed that the majority of PCU's 150 professors and 200 nonacademic personnel were behind them.

"Several students have expressed their support, but they opted to stay neutral by not joining in the protest activity, and we understand that," Naluz said.

The protesters accused Suarez, who has been president of the Taft Avenue and Dasmariñas, Cavite campuses for five years, of failing "to show sincere concern to protect the interests of the university."

They added that he had also failed to improve the university's financial condition.

The PCU is owned and managed by two Protestant churches, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and the United Methodist Church.

"The university fund in the year 2000 was P265 million; now it's down to P72 million," Naluz said, adding that Suarez had failed to show documents on how the fund was disbursed.

They alleged that in 2004, Suarez had made an unauthorized loan of P32 million "for the university's developmental projects," using PCU's trust fund as the collateral. The loan, however, was allegedly diverted by Suarez to Terra Nova

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DPWH vows speedy dismantling of billboards

By Leila B. Salaverria and Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CAMPAIGN TO BRING DOWN illegal and hazardous billboards has so far resulted in the dismantling of over 2,200 outdoor advertisements nationwide, most of them in Metro Manila, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., in a statement issued yesterday, meanwhile, ordered his men to speed up the tearing down of even more billboards which have proven to be potential road hazards, as well as other structures that encroach on the road right-of-way.

At the height of Typhoon "Milenyo" on Sept. 28, several gigantic billboards collapsed, killing a man and injuring several others. This prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the DPWH to inspect all billboards in the country and take down those found to be violating the National Building Code.

"We must take advantage of the good weather and dismantle killer billboards before another typhoon hits the country," Ebdane said. He added that he wants the dismantling crews to get the job done before start of the holiday season when traffic is expected to be heavier.

According to the DPWH, most of the billboards brought down in compliance with the President's order were along Metro Manila's main thoroughfares and the Metro Rail Transit line.

A total of 1,286 billboards have so far been removed on Edsa, Commonwealth Avenue, Roxas Boulevard, Quezon Avenue, East Avenue and the MRT line that runs from Taft Avenue in Pasay City to North Avenue in Quezon City.

In Central Luzon, DPWH personnel reported the dismantling of 612 billboards, 15 of them located on the North Luzon Expressway. In southern Luzon, 116 were taken down in the Bicol region, and 74 in the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon zone. In Mindanao, 160 billboards were brought down in Davao.

Ebdane said that apart from billboards, DPWH personnel will also dismantle illegal structures within the road right-of-way, including shanties, stores and vulcanizing shops.

Advertisers, meanwhile, said they would boycott billboard operators who violate existing laws and other government rules.

Advertising Board of the Philippines vice chair Carlo Llave, also chair of the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines, said the policy was the private sector's contribution to government's effort to address safety concerns and to regulate the outdoor advertising industry.

Llave added the 85-member OAAP, which the Adboard recognizes as the self-regulatory representative of the industry, adopted a new code of ethics that specifically exhorts members "not to patronize nor contract outdoor ads that violated the National Building Code."

"The Adboard, in consultation with its members, would draw up and submit to appropriate government bodies the specifications for billboards that are harmonious to the environment where they are located," he said.

IMPROVISATION
A woman finds another use for tombs inside the South Cemetery in Manila. As her daughter looks on, she lays out her laundry to dry on the graves of other people. But she will have to temporarily find another place to hang her wash on Nov. 1 when people visit their dead relatives in the cemetery. REUTERS

Rizal hospital delivery room still closed; repair work stalled

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE DELIVERY ROOM OF THE Rizal Medical Center remained closed as of yesterday afternoon, almost a week after it was reported that seven babies who were born there had died of neonatal sepsis.

Hospital employees said the room was still being decontaminated upon orders of the Department of Health which had also formed a committee to investigate the deaths.

Even engineers from the Pasig City Hall sent to the hospital by Mayor Vicente Eusebio were barred from entering the building.

"Our three engineers were told that the delivery room was still being cleaned," Eusebio told the INQUIRER. The mayor had earlier volunteered to use city funds to repair the delivery room.

He said that while the hospital was directly under the national government, the city would help in the repair work in response to complaints from parents that it was untidy.

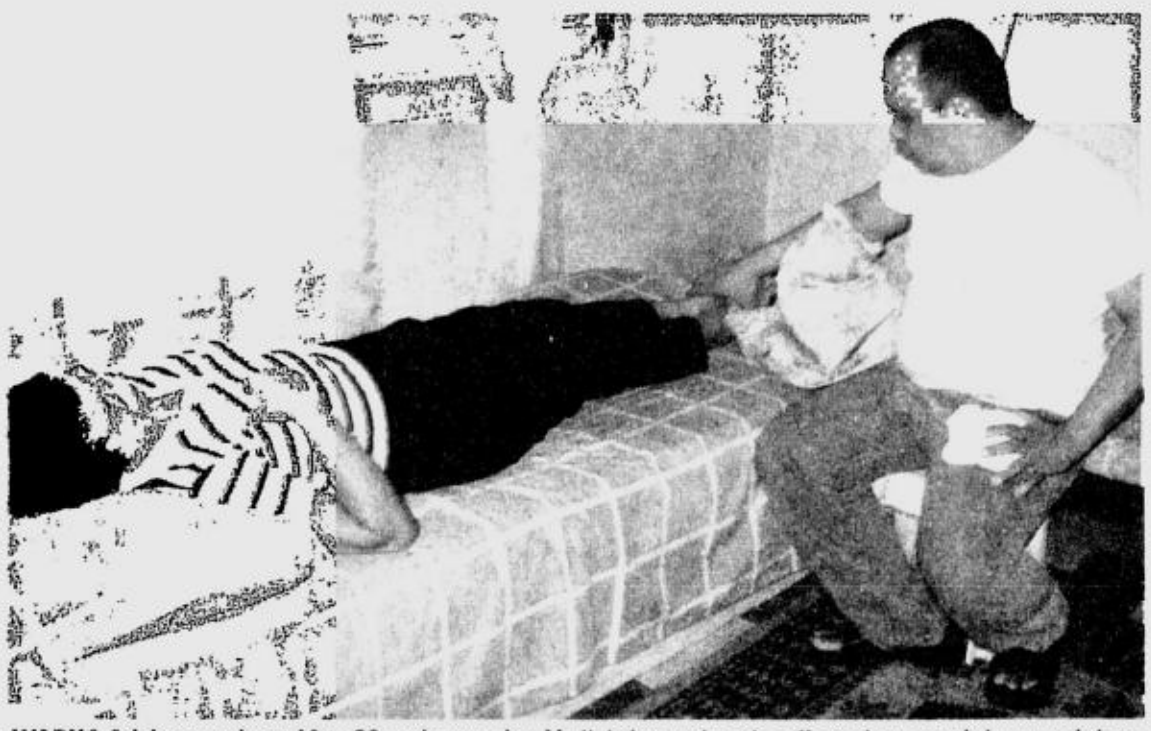
Hospital records showed that of the 28 babies born in the hospital on Oct. 4, at least 12 babies had developed neonatal sepsis or an infection in the blood. Six of the babies died on Oct. 6 while the seventh victim died on Oct. 7, hospital doctors added.

Five of the babies returned home after they were born and were brought back to the hospital days later when they showed symptoms like fever and discoloration. Two of the babies had remained at the hospital because of early signs of infection.

Mothers who had given birth said the delivery room was crowded and dirty. There were numerous deliveries that day but hospital employees allegedly no longer cleaned the beds and just asked them to lie down, they added.

Hospital officials admitted conditions at the hospital had been difficult that day as water lines, damaged by Typhoon "Milenyo" days ago, had not been reconnected. That morning, according to another doctor, a power transformer also exploded, cutting off supply to the hospital.

The investigation team created to determine how the babies got the infection is expected to submit its report to the Department of Health today.



WARKA Adala sees about 10 to 20 patients a day. He lightly touches the affected area and then sends into it an energy that he says "shatters" the disease. LINDA BOLIDO

A healer in more ways than one

By Linda B. Bolido

WARKA A. ADALA IS A HEALER—perhaps in more ways than one.

Every day, he attends to the ailments of some 10 to 20 people who troop to his house in Kamuning, Quezon City.

Some of them are "returnees," having experienced relief from his "healing hands" on their first visit.

On a deeper level, however, Adala is also helping heal animosities, bridging gaps created by suspicion and distrust and proving that differences in religion are not that difficult to overcome.

Adala is a Muslim, a Tausog born in Patikul, Jolo, site of several bloody encounters between military forces and Muslim groups opposing the government.

His patients, on the other hand, are mostly Christians.

In this sense. Adala is not just a faith healer. The people he helps do not have to share his religious beliefs. His faith is also more encompassing, unfettered by boundaries set by organized religions. "I would like to align myself with holy people," he says.

Universal religion

For Adala, the true religion is universal, spreading a "loving philosophy." He adds that he respects the saints that Christians revere and invokes the help of the great prophets from Muhammad to Christ in his work.

The fishery graduate and former teacher, who considers Zamboanga City his home, heals his "patients" by infusing them with some kind of energy that "shatters" their disease. In his mind, he sees the problem, causes it to crystallize and then smashes it up.

With his patients lying down, he lightly touches the part of the body that needs treatment and focuses his mind and energy on the problem. According to his patients, they felt heat in the area that he touched.

A session, Adala says, lasts an average of 15 minutes.

One new patient, who wanted relief from arthritis and had only one healing session to go, said, "*Yung* left foot, *malaki ang ibinuti* (There's been a big improvement in my left foot)." She plans to return to have her right foot and knees attended to.

Satisfied patients

Most of the other patients on a recent Saturday were "returnees," seeking Adala's ministrations every time they have some new health problem. A woman seeking help for a painful ulcer had been a "patient" for a year. So was a girl working in a publishing firm.

After several sessions, a 9-year-old girl diagnosed as a blue baby (born with a heart defect that causes blood from the veins and arteries to mingle), is now relatively active, seemingly unencumbered by her congenital condition.

Adala says he sees around 20 patients every day from Monday to Saturday. Sunday is rest day for him although people with urgent problems can make an appointment. He prefers to see people between 6 a.m. and 2 p.m., but unlike other healers who have to schedule sessions on a particular time and day, he can draw on his healing powers any time.

"*Walang pinipiling* time, *walang place* (I can do it anytime, any place)," he says.

The gregarious Adala discovered his talent rather late. Now 48, he found out he could cure ailments when his touch shrank his mother-in-law's goiter. He remembers his first words to his wife after that first successful healing, "*Yayaman na tayo* (We are finally going to be rich)."

Though he has remained a man of modest means, he acknowledges that his gifts have made his life more comfortable, even allowing him to support his eldest son who is studying law. "My life has improved. The patients help me, I don't help them," he says.

But Adala shares with fellow Muslims the benefits he has derived from healing. Once a month, he returns to Zamboanga, bringing with him food, clothes and other items he gives away to the poor.

After 12 years of being a healer, he says he feels his gifts have been enhanced. He has become more disciplined, more able to control his skill to achieve greater effect.

But he wants to be more than just a healer, aware that he can make a contribution to fostering greater understanding between Christians and his fellow Muslims.

A firm believer in nonviolence, he wants to be able to promote the "coexistence of Muslims and non-Muslims, to advance the goal of reconciliation and unity."

Perhaps, he says, "I can be a model for a new Muslim."

Warka's Healing Center is located at 40-D Kamias Road, Barangay Malaya in Quezon City, with telephone numbers 9233592 or 0919-3365353.

Worker dies, another hurt in park mishap

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

A CONSTRUCTION WORKER died while another was seriously injured after they fell from the roof of a theater inside the Enchanted Kingdom theme park here on Wednesday afternoon.

Francis Tangente died of severe head and body injuries while being treated at the St. James Hospital a few hours after the accident.

His coworker, Jesus Trazona, survived the fall but suffered a fractured hip and bruises all over his body.

Miles Sarmiento, chief for corporate communication of Enchanted Kingdom, declared that the accident was not "ride-related."

"This is (an unfortunate) accident which happens in any other construction site," Sarmiento told the INQUIRER in an interview at her office.

She said the victims were employees of Direct Electric Corp. which they had commissioned to repair the electrical devices destroyed by the onslaught of Typhoon "Milenyo" several weeks ago.

She explained the two, together with another worker, were busy fixing the lightning arrester, a safety device used to protect a structure from lightning, on the roof of the "Rialto" at around 3:45 p.m. when the steel device suddenly bent and hit them.

The victims fell from the 50-foot structure which, Sarmiento said, was the highest point inside the theme park.

The two were immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment, she added.

Sarmiento said that although the accident was not related to the ride, the management of the theme park decided to temporarily suspend the operations of "Rialto," an entertainment theater using 3D technology.

"We just would like to assure the public that this accident is being investigated and that this was not ride-related," she said.

She added that management would extend financial help to the families of the victims.

Mayors won't talk about Binay suspension order

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SOME MAYORS IN THE metropolis have refused to comment on the preventive suspension of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay and his local officials.

The usually outspoken Manila City Mayor Lito Atienza, a staunch ally of the administration, a close friend of Binay and the Metro Manila Mayors' League president, has not given his opinion on the issue.

This was not so during the suspension of Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad more than a month ago, when mayors in the metropolis immediately crossed party lines to sign a manifesto of support.

"We have suggested that (Atienza) call a meeting. We cannot give any comment yet because we are not familiar with the issue," Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Mandaluyong City Mayor Neptali Gonzales II said he was hoping that "fairness and justice" would prevail in the end but he said he would not comment on the case because he was also not familiar with the issue.

"I don't want to pass judgment on either side because I am not familiar with the facts of the case," Gonzales said in a phone interview.

The Department of Interior and Local Government served the other day a preventive suspension order against Binay and other local officials for alleged maintenance of ghosts employees in the city hall payroll.

The suspension came more than a month after the Office of the Ombudsman suspended Trinidad and 10 local officials in Pasay City for allegedly entering into questionable contracts for garbage collection and disposal.

The same day Trinidad was suspended, many Metro mayors signed a manifesto of support, questioning the absence of due process in the suspension order.

METROBRIEFS

Ban on plastic ware

DRINKING *palamig* (sweetened water) under the hot afternoon sun will never be the same in a certain area in Quezon City. Instead of the familiar plastic cup or cellophane with straw, one will have to use a glass or any other Earth-friendly alternative in Barangay Batasan Hills. Barangay officials have banned the use of plastic and styro cups and containers in serving *palamig*, soft drinks, and other beverages in *sari sari* (variety) stores and canteens in the area. The ordinance also covers ambulant vendors. The ban was contained in the ordinance approved on Sept. 9 by barangay chair Ranulfo Ludovica.

DJ Yap

Alphan convention

MEMBERS of the UP Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity will hold a national convention on Oct. 20 to 22 at the Great Eastern Hotel (Aberdeen Court) on Quezon Ave., Quezon City. Speakers include Supreme Court Justices Reynato S. Puno and Leonardo A. Quisumbing and Rep. Francis "Chiz" Escudero. Contact Anna Czarina Peleo at 9316442 or e-mail annapeleo@yahoo.com or Pastor "Mar" Reyes Jr. at 8924435, 8131553.

Tutors ...

From page A23

Trading, a company then registered in the name of his wife, Marlene. The transaction, Naluz stressed, "clearly showed a conflict of interest."

The protesters added that half of the P82 million paid by the Napocor Power Corp. to the PCU for the use of a portion of the university's Cavite campus went to Raymundo Quiambao, whom Suarez had reportedly appointed to broker the deal.

"Suarez entered into a transaction resulting in the payment of 50 percent to Quiambao as a commission. That's a big amount. The usual brokers' fee should only be two to three percent of the price," Naluz said.

The complainants asked the court to appoint a receiver or a management committee to relieve Suarez as president and to require the latter to account for the university's funds.

The INQUIRER tried to get Suarez's side but his secretary said he was out of the office.

The protesters, meanwhile, said classes were not disrupted yesterday as the professors were allowed to hold classes.

DID YOU KNOW

METRO Manila has the highest literacy rate in the country. In 2003, the simple literacy rate of people aged 10 years old and above in the region was 99 percent. This was followed by Ilocos region (97.4 percent) and Central Luzon (96.9 percent). On the other hand, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao had the lowest literacy rate at 70.2 percent. Overall, the country had an average rate of 93.4 percent.

The National Statistical Coordination Board defines simple literacy as "the ability of a person to read and write with understanding simple messages in any language or dialect." ***Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research***

Bush affirms parallel between Iraq, Vietnam

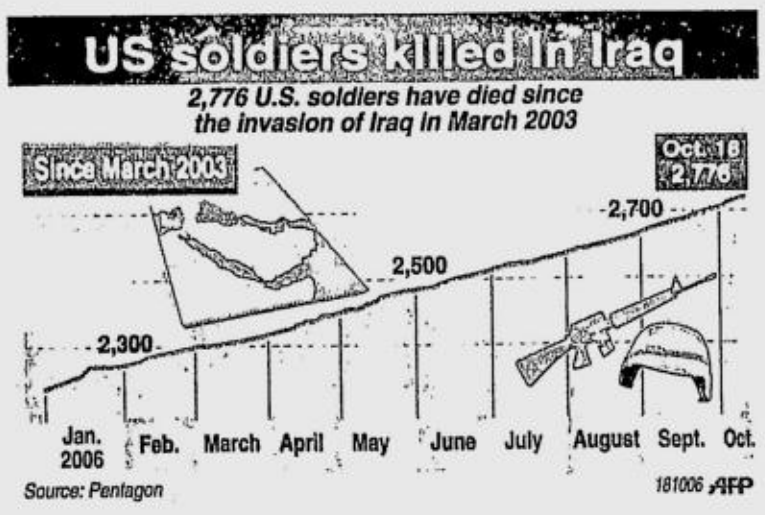
But says no plan to change Iraq strategy as 10 US soldiers are killed in a single day

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush has for the first time acknowledged a possible parallel between the raging violence in Iraq and the Vietnam War.

But the White House also affirmed that it has no plan to reassess its strategy in the war-ravaged country, despite a surge in US casualties there and unrelenting sectarian bloodshed.

Bush was asked in an ABC News interview late Wednesday if he agreed with a New York Times columnist's comparison of the strife in Iraq with the Tet Offensive, which is considered a key turning point in the US war in Vietnam.

"He could be right," Bush said. "There's certainly a stepped-up level of violence."



Bush said insurgents were trying "to inflict enough damage that we'd leave."

The Tet Offensive, a campaign launched by the North Vietnamese in early 1968, was considered a military defeat for them, but the scope of the assault shocked Americans and helped turn US public opinion against the war.

Many Americans concluded that the war was unwinnable or victory too costly.

The comments came amid a steep spike in US deaths in Iraq, including 10 killed in a single day, on Wednesday.

The US military announced two more US soldier deaths early Thursday, bringing the total number of American fatalities in Iraq this month to 69.

The US administration said the surge in US casualties would not lead to a reassessment of the US strategy there.

"The strategy is to win," spokesperson Tony Snow said in the southern state of North Carolina Wednesday. "As everybody says, correctly, we've got to win. And that comes at a cost."

Also on Thursday, a suicide truck bomber slammed into an Iraqi police station in the northern city of Mosul, killing 10 and wounding 14, police said. Nine of the dead were civilians.

The attacks came amid a spectacular surge in insurgent and sectarian violence around Iraq, which has claimed hundreds of lives since the start of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan just over three weeks ago.

In the television interview, Bush ruled out a complete troop withdrawal as long as he is president, through January 2009.

However, a high-powered panel named by the US Congress to assess policy options in Iraq is weighing recommendations that could deal a blow to Bush's "stay-the-course" policy in Iraq.

A source associated with the Iraq Study Group confirmed media reports that options under consideration include a phased withdrawal of US soldiers from Iraq and an opening of diplomatic channels with Iran and Syria.

Both steps would represent a major break with the president's policies.

The 10-member panel of bipartisan heavyweights will deliver its report sometime after the Nov. 7 midterm elections, according to its leader, respected former secretary of state James Baker. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Israel cluster bombs still killing Lebanese

UNITED NATIONS—Cluster bombs dropped by Israel on southern Lebanon in its month-long war with Hezbollah are still killing or injuring three to four civilians a day, a third of them children, land mine activists said on Wednesday. Groups helping Lebanon clear unexploded mines from the war zone have identified 770 sites hit by cluster bombs during the conflict that ended in an Aug. 14 ceasefire, according to a new report by London-based Landmine Action. While more than 45,000 unexploded cluster bomblets have been cleared and destroyed, hundreds of thousands more still litter the countryside and it will take another year or two to get the situation under control, the report said. Cluster bombs burst into bomblets and spread out near the ground. While some aim to destroy tanks, others are designed to kill or maim humans over a wide area. *Reuters*

McCartney hits back against wife's allegations

LONDON—Pop legend Paul McCartney on Wednesday defended himself against claims made by his estranged wife Heather Mills-McCartney, vowing to fight the allegations "vigorously and appropriately." McCartney, 64, who issued a statement through his lawyers said that while he would "very much like to respond in public and in detail to the allegations made recently against him," he recognized that the "only correct forum for his response is in the current divorce proceedings." His wife, 38, claimed, in papers lodged by her divorce lawyers, that the ex-Beatle was "physically violent" towards her, and acted in a "vindictive, punitive manner towards her." She also alleged, that while in Los Angeles in November 2002, Paul McCartney "grabbed her by the neck and pushed her over a coffee table," and then stormed out of the house, fell down a hill and cut his arm. *AFP*

US military trials ordered in Iraq murder cases

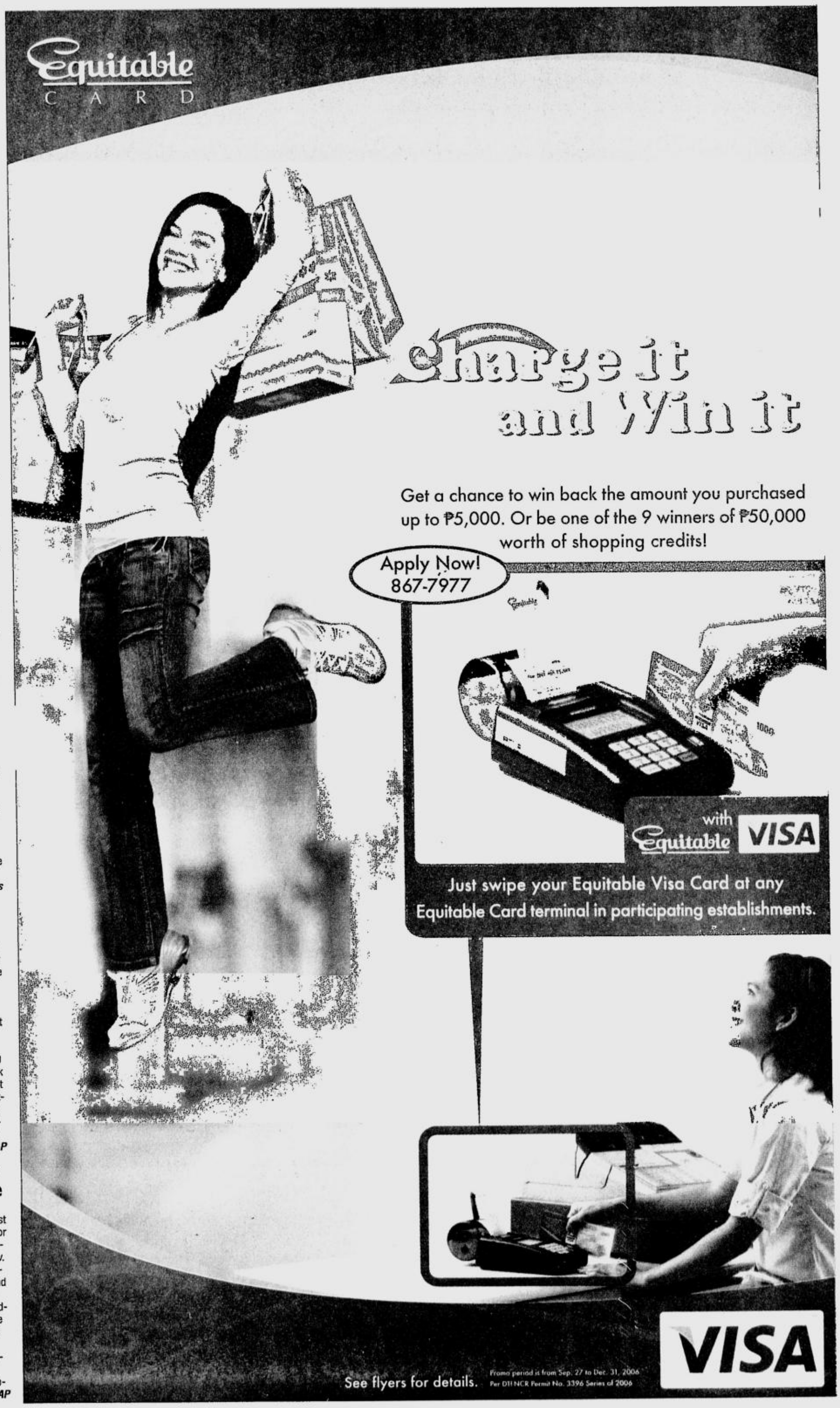
WASHINGTON—US service members will face military trials in three separate cases for the murders of Iraqi civilians, including the gang rape and murder of a teenage girl and the killing of her family in their home in Mahmudiya, the military said on Wednesday. An Army general ordered the court-martial of four soldiers in the Mahmudiya case and said two of the four could face death if found guilty. One of the accused will testify against the others, according to his Washington attorney, David Sheldon. Army Maj. Gen. Thomas Turner also ordered military trials for four other soldiers accused of murdering three Iraqi detainees during a raid on a suspected insurgent camp near Thar Thar Lake, southwest of Tikrit. In the third case, three US Marines will be tried on murder charges in the death of an Iraqi grandfather kidnapped from his house in Hamdania in the middle of the night, the US Marine Corps said. Those cases, particularly the alleged Mahmudiya gang rape, as well as the killing of 24 people in Haditha, have sparked outrage among Iraqis. Mahmudiya led Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to call for a review of foreign troops' immunity from Iraqi prosecution. *Reuters*

PM admits Ethiopia has troops in Somalia

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA—Ethiopia's prime minister told parliament Thursday that he has sent military trainers to help Somalia's struggling government, the first official acknowledgment that Ethiopian troops are inside the neighboring country. However, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said Ethiopia has not deployed a fighting force. UN officials and local resident have long reported that Ethiopian troops have deployed inside Somali border towns and around the transitional government headquarters in Baidoa, 250 km from the capital, Mogadishu, to support the weak government against Islamic militants. Zenawi did not say how many trainers he had sent to Ethiopia's eastern neighbor, but said the move was in keeping with international efforts to support a transitional government seeking to establish itself in a country that has been largely lawless for 15 years. *AP*

Nigeria president declares state of emergency in state

ABUJA, NIGERIA—Nigeria's president declared a state of emergency Thursday in a troubled southwest state where he said the impeachment of the governor by the local legislature violated the constitution. Legislators in southwest Ekiti state voted to remove Gov. Ayo Fayose on Monday after finding him guilty of siphoning state funds into personal bank accounts and receiving kickbacks. President Olusegun Obasanjo appointed a retired military general Tunji Olurin to administer the state and maintain security there for the next six months. He also suspended for six months the state legislature, along with Fayose, his deputy and Friday Aderemi, the former speaker of local parliament who is claiming to be governor. Nigeria is Africa's largest oil producer and the fifth-largest supplier of oil to the United States. *AP*



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Nokor signals 2nd test despite furor

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA SIGNALED THURSDAY it would ignore demands to stop testing atom bombs, as US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held crisis talks with Asian allies to get the defiant regime to stand down.

US officials said a delegation from China, the North's only major ally, was in Pyongyang delivering a "very strong" warning not to proceed with another test after the first led to UN sanctions and international condemnation.

Rice meanwhile arrived in Seoul for talks with her South Korean and Japanese counterparts, part of an all-out diplomatic push to get the new sanctions enforced and tighten the pressure on the isolated regime of Kim Jong-Il.

But her arrival came as one of the North's top diplomats said just what Rice did not want to hear—that it would be "natural" to follow up the Oct. 9 underground explosion with a second nuclear weapons test.

"We don't have to care much about this issue," Li Gun, deputy head of North Korea's foreign ministry, told US television network ABC.

Asked if US officials should not be surprised by another test, Li said: "That's right, yes." The international community united in condemning the first test, with the UN Security Council voting unanimously for a resolution that imposed sanctions on Pyongyang including financial, trade and military restrictions.

But both China and South Korea have baulked at inspecting North Korean cargo, which the United States says is needed to prevent transfers of weapons of mass destruction to US opponents such as al-Qaida and Iran.

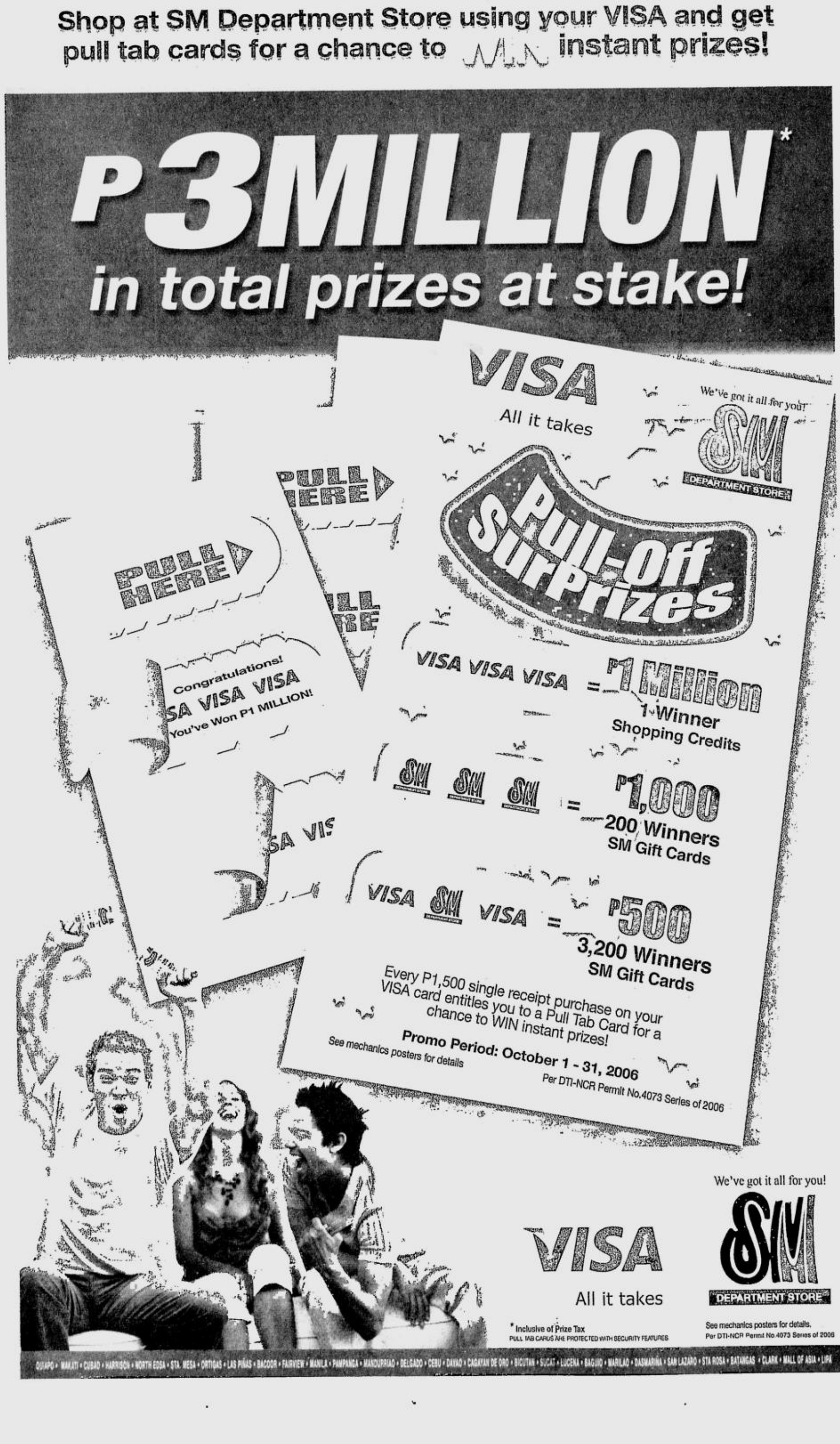
Rice arrived here from Tokyo to discuss the crisis with South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon, newly elected as the next head of the United Nations, and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso.

"I'm quite certain there will be additional measures of some kind" if there is a second test, she said before leaving Japan. Ban said the international reaction would be "much more severe." A senior official traveling with Rice said Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan was in Pyongyang at the head of a high-powered delegation including all of China's key officials on North Korea.

"I'm pretty convinced the Chinese would have a very strong message about future tests," the State Department official said.

After initially calling the first test "brazen," however, China negotiated at the Security Council to tone down the sanctions.

As the two largest food donors and trading partners of the North, China and South Korea hold the key to pressuring the isolated Stalinist state. But even Beijing admits it has limited influence on the regime. *AFP*



Immigrants' money flow to LatAm surges

THERE IS A COMMON CYCLE TO IMMIGRATION from Latin America. Immigrants arrive in the United States and quickly find work. Several months later—in the case of illegal migrants, as soon as they have finished paying off the smuggler who brought them across the border—they start sending money home.

According to a new report about immigrants' money transfers to Latin America, the remittances flow from almost every state. Even in states that had virtually no Latin American immigrants only a few years ago, like Mississippi and Pennsylvania, a growing trickle of money is making its way south to places like Tlalchapa, Mexico, or Panajachel, in the Guatemalan highlands.

For the nation as a whole, the flow of money has become a torrent. According to the study, sponsored by the Multilateral Investment Fund of the 47-nation Inter-American Development Bank, remittances from the United States to Latin America this year will total more than $45 billion. That is 51 percent higher than they were only two years ago.

About three-quarters of Latino immigrants who were surveyed send money home regularly, up from some 60 percent in a similar survey in 2004. This may largely reflect growth in the population of illegal immigrants, who tend to send money home more often than others. They accounted for about 40 percent of remitters in the survey, up from a third in 2004.

The study's estimates on remittances are in line with population figures from the US Census Bureau, which found last year that Latin American immigrants made up 6.6 percent of the nation's household population (that is, excluding people in jail, on military bases and such), more than half the total immigrant population.

The bureau also found that 1.2 percent of the household population of Pennsylvania was born in Latin America, as were 0.7 percent of the population of Ohio and two percent of the population of Indiana. These were states with virtually no Latino immigrants five years ago. *NYT*

7 US funeral homes admit to organ trafficking

NEW YORK—SEVEN US FUNERAL HOME DIrectors have pleaded guilty to trafficking bones and organs taken from hundreds of cadavers, authorities said Wednesday.

The guilty pleas in New York came eight months after four other people were charged with illegally harvesting bones and organs from more than 1,000 corpses, including the bones of the late veteran BBC broadcaster Alistair Cooke.

The Justice Department announced Wednesday that it had expanded its indictment against the four, Michael Mastromarino, Joseph Nicelli, Lee Cruceta, and Christopher Aldorasi.

"These ghoulish thieves thought they could pull off the crime of the century, stealing bones from the dead, without any thoughts to their victims' families or the transplant recipients who would receive possibly tainted bone and tissue grafts," Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes said in a statement.

Funeral homes in Rochester, Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx have been accused of providing corpses for the organ smuggling scheme.

In announcing the indictment in February, authorities alleged that the four men made millions of dollars selling body tissue to transplant companies.

In many cases, the bones were replaced by PVC pipes so that their theft would not be noticed at a funeral, authorities said.

At the same time, the accused would regularly toss gloves, aprons, and other evidence of their criminal handiwork into the bodies before sewing them back up, prosecutors said.

The bones, tendons, heart valves and other tissue were harvested in a funeral home owned by Nicelli, authorities said.

Cooke—a nationally recognized broadcaster in Britain—was best known for his "Letter From America" program which aired weekly on BBC domestic and World Service radio for over 50 years. *AFP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Asiad heroine** Mikee lights up torch relay /A28

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

■ **Mets nip** Cards, forge do-or-die /A30

SMB parades Adducul, Tugade vs Aces today

WITH A HEAVY HEART, RED BULL LET GO OF LORDY TUGADE, A vital part of the Bulls' past PBA championships, yesterday following a three-team multiplayer, multipick deal that seemed most beneficial to struggling San Miguel Beer.

"It's a pity that this had to happen," Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao told the INQUIRER on the phone. "We were together since the start (when Red Bull entered the PBA) and we bled together for those (titles)."

Red Bull got San Miguel's relief big men Migs Noble and Michael Kong after giving up only Paolo Hubalde and its first and second round picks in next year's Rookie Draft.

While the Beermen loaded the shooting guard position with Tugade's arrival, San Miguel also addressed a pressing problem in the middle after acquiring former Barangay Ginebra center Rommel Adducul from Red Bull.

Adducul, who has been asking to be traded for lack of playing time at Ginebra, was initially shipped to the Bulls, who also gave up their first round pick in 2008, and Hubalde, whom they got from San Miguel, to the Kings.

"I actually don't know any of the other details (of the deal), other than losing Lordy," Guiao said. "I wish him well and I know that he also wishes us well."

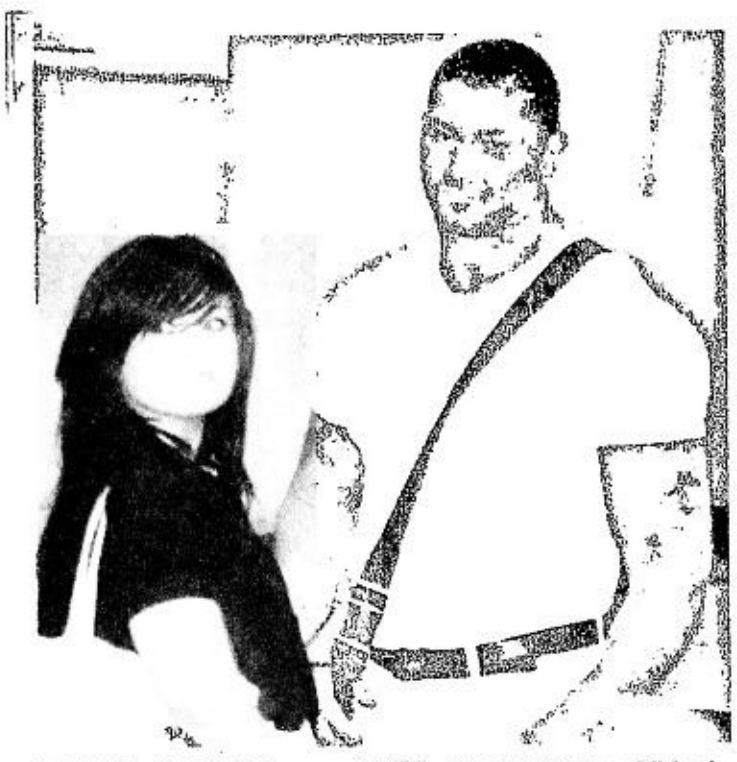
Another Red Bull source, though, said that Tugade had been "acting up" since renewing his pact with the team a few weeks before the start of the season.

"He was showing the team that his heart was no longer here," said the source, who requested anonymi-

SMB/ A29

STANDINGS	W	L
Sta. Lucia	3	0
Talk 'N Text	3	1
Red Bull	3	1
Ginebra	3	1
Coca-Cola	2	2
Welcoat	2	2
Air21	1	3
Purefoods	1	3
Alaska	1	3
SMBeer	0	3

GAMES TODAY
(Ynares Center)
4:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska



JESS YUSON

WRESTLER Dave Michael Bautista (a.k.a. Dave Batista), of Filipino-Greek descent, arrives with his daughter Sharon at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 yesterday for the WWE Smack Down Survivor Series Tour set this weekend at the Araneta Coliseum. On the left are other wrestlers.

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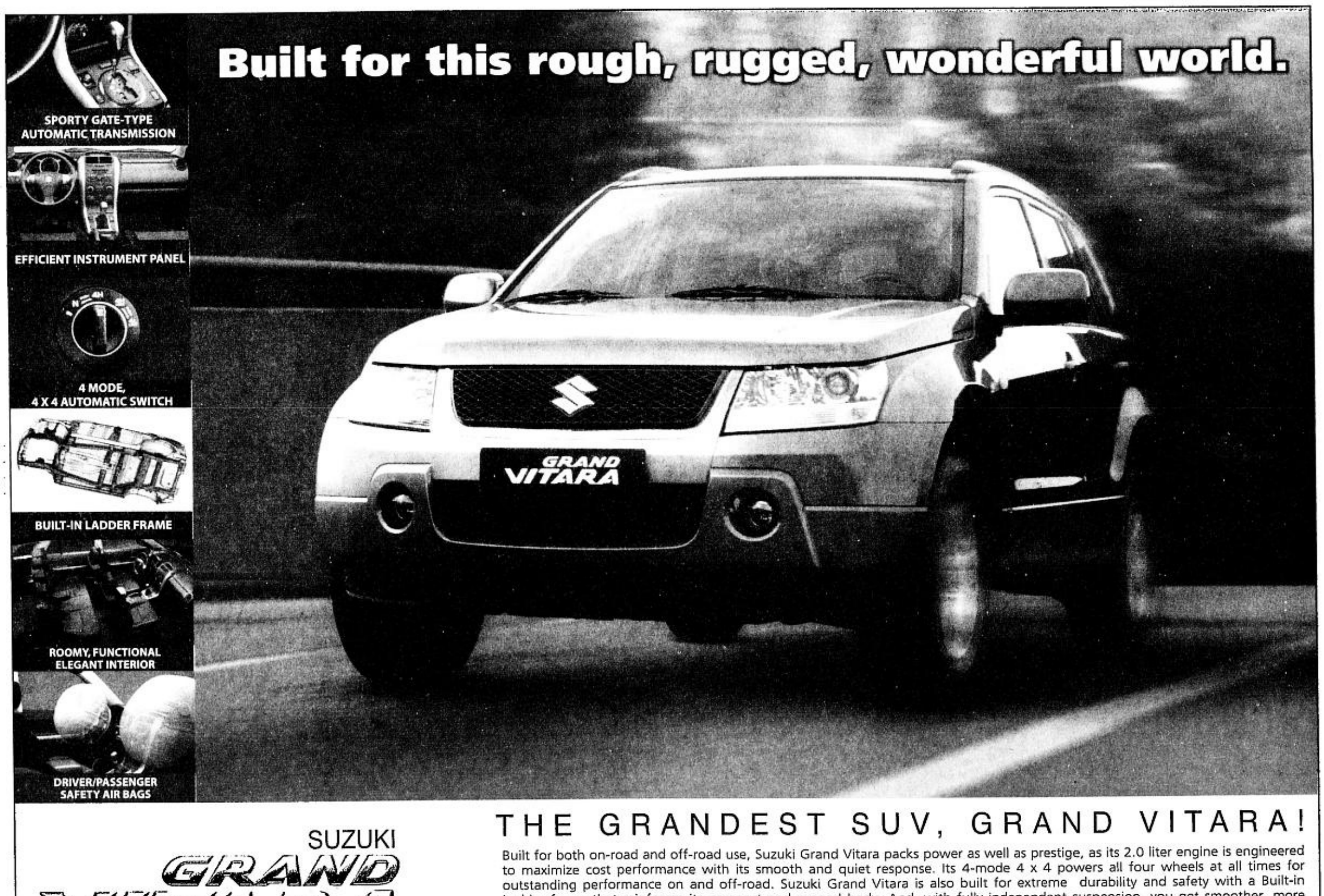

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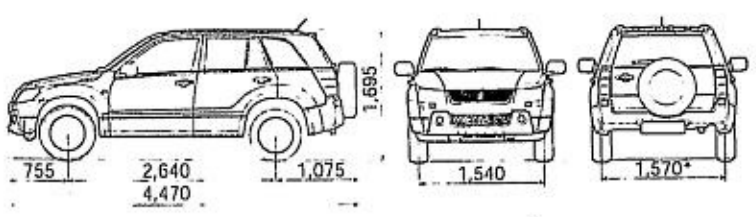

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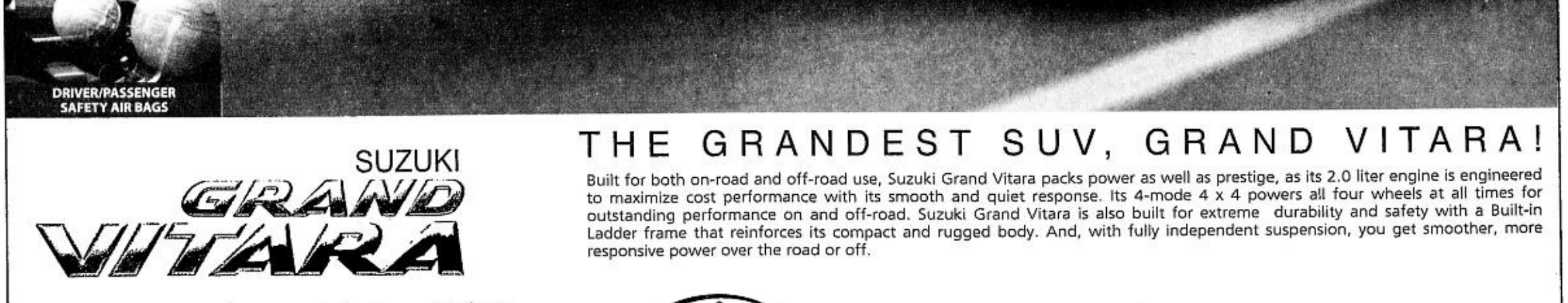


CHAMPS LEAGUE

Red Lions, Warriors dispute title

By Jasmine W. Payo

NCAA CHAMPIONS SAN BEDA RED LIONS COOLLY TOOK CARE OF THINGS when the Jose Rizal Bombers turned hot in the closing seconds.

Turning to their veterans, the Lions thwarted the Bombers' late surge to forge a 61-58 win and clinch a Finals berth in the Collegiate Champions League yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

GAMES SUNDAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU (Battle for 3rd)
4 p.m..—UE vs San Beda (Championship)

The University of the East Warriors, starring rookie Toto Bandaying, bested the Mapua Cardinals, 83-74, and forged a title showdown with the Lions.

San Beda found many heroes in the final canto, needing little help from Nigerian exchange student Samuel Ekwe, to beat Jose Rizal.

After Yousif Aljamal pumped in nine of his 17 points in the fourth period and Pong Escobal and Ogie Menor came through in the dying seconds for the Lions, who will be gunning for their second title in two months.

Sparingly used, the 6-foot-8 Ekwe, the NCAA rookie Most Valuable Player, settled for two points.

"It's been our principle to put the team first above ourselves, they took that to heart," said Lions coach Koy Banal.

Bandaying, a recruit from Zamboanga, pumped in 17 points, while team stars Mark Borboran and Marcy Arellano tallied 14 points apiece for the Warriors, who will be shooting for their second title in the four-year-old tournament.

For the second straight game, the Cardinals missed the services of top gunner Kelvin dela Peña due to a personal commitment.

The scores:

First Game

UE 83—Bandaying 17, Borboran 14, Arellano 14, Martinez 10, Gregorio 9, Canizares 9, Labagala 8, Espiritu 2, Lingganay 0, Thiele 0, Briones 0.

MAPUA 74—Del Rosario 18, Co 15, Tiongco 11, N. Pascual 9, Gonzales 8, Sumalinog 8, Acosta 3, Mazo 2, Palomique 0, Pascual 0, Guillermo 0.

Quarters: 31-19, 50-39, 68-57, 83-74

Second Game

SAN BEDA 61—Aljamal 17, Escobal 14, Gamalinda 9, Maggay 5, Angeles 4, Tecson 4, Evangelista 3, Menor 3, Ekwe 2, Taganas 0.

JRU 58—Sena 18, Dedicatoria 13, Nocom 8, Cagoco 5, Wilson 4, Pradas 4, Caspe 3, Hayes 2,Se 1, Echane 0, Fenequito 0.

Quarters: 20-11, 32-34, 45-40, 61-58

MIKEE Cojuangco-Jaworski stops the traffic on Ayala Avenue. AP

MAYOR Feliciano Belmonte (right) takes over from Paeng Nepomuceno as the torch reaches Quezon City. REM ZAMORA

Asiad heroine Mikee lights up torch relay

HOLDING THE REINS WITH one hand while gripping the torch with the other, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski's horseback ride in Makati City was easily the biggest draw in yesterday's Asian Games Torch Relay in the streets of Metro Manila.

From Rustan's on Ayala Avenue all the way to McKinley Road, onlookers cheered the 2002 Busan Asian Games equestrian gold medalist.

At times, Mikee would marvel at the torch, first lit by the fierce rays of the Qatari sun a few weeks ago and one that symbolizes the participation of Team Philippines in the 15th edition of the Asiad in Doha.

Government and sports officials, athletes, movie and television celebrities and other VIPs took turns bearing the Asiad torch during the relay that cut across 10 cities before ending up at the Luneta at 7 p.m.

Sheikh Joann Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, son of the Emir of Qatar, lit the Asiad torch at 7:25 a.m. in front of the Rizal Monument.

Taking their turns at the Games flame at the start of the Torch Relay were Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Philippine Sports Commission chair William Ramirez, Philippine Ambassador to Qatar Isias Begonia, Rear Adm. Amable Tolentino, Tourism Assistant Secretary Cynthia Carrion, bowler CJ Suarez, diver Sheila Mae Perez, archer Jasmin Figueroa, swimmers Akiko Thomson and Kendrick Uy, and World Cup legend Paeng Nepomuceno.

June Navarro

MT. EVEREST conqueror Romy Garuce RAFFY LERMA

REM ZAMORA

PRESIDENTAL Adviser on Youth and Sports Ali Atienza

Go to sever ties with POC brass

By June Navarro

FROM NOW ON, DON'T EXPECT TO SEE athletics president Go Teng Kok rubbing elbows again with the top brass of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Go hinted he would part ways with the POC hierarchy after the local Olympic body formed a fact-finding committee to inquire into his alleged involvement in moves to gain reinstatement for the Basketball Association of the Philippines in the POC.

Go yesterday denied accusations he was campaigning for the BAP and insinuated that, regardless of the findings of the investigative body, he would cut his ties with the POC.

"If they find out that I'm guilty, they will kick me out," said Go. "If I get my name cleared, I will resign from the POC just the same."

Go is a member of the Olympic body's ways and means and sports and rules committees as well as the Asian Games Task Force which is tasked with screening the athletes for the Doha Games.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco earlier asked POC chair Robert Aventajado and Frank Elizalde, International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines, to head the fact-finding panel formed on the request of the 11-man POC executive board.

Among the members of the executive board are table tennis chief Vic Valbuena and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, some of the staunchest critics of Go.

"What's the need of forming a fact-finding committee when Mr. Cojuangco could call me up and ask me?" said Go, Cojuangco's special assistant.

Morfe dropped; Briones in

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO TEAM TO THE Doha Asian Games yesterday announced major changes in its lineup, removing an injured veteran, reinserting another seasoned campaigner, and bringing in a new face.

Co-captain Dax Morfe was cut from the roster after he re-injured his right knee last week, making him unfit for the event slated Dec. 1-15.

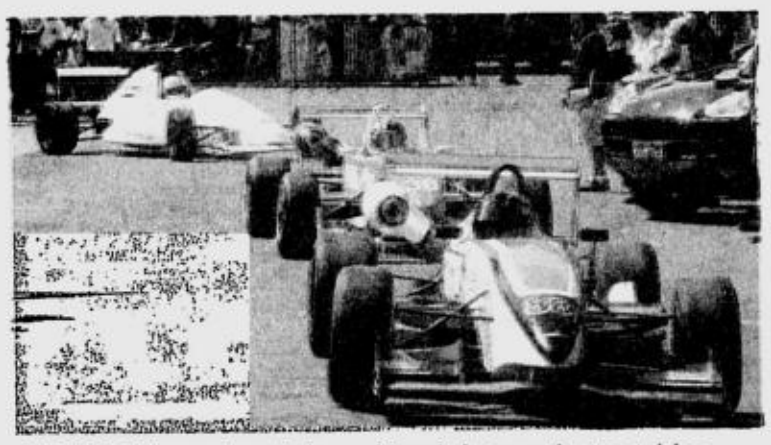
Head coach Stephen Fernandez said Morfe will be replaced by SEA Games silver medalist and former World Juniors bronze winner Alex Briones in the middleweight division.

Charmer Veronica Domingo, a bronze medalist in the Busan Asiad, on the other hand, took the place of greenhorn Richel Denolan in the women's welterweight category.

Denolan, according to Fernandez, is being groomed for the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand next year.

Olympian and 2002 Busan silver medalist Donald Geisler, fighting in the lightweight division, will be the men's team captain.

The 28-year-old Morfe, a Southeast Asian Games gold and silver medalist and World Cup bronze winner in 2001, sustained the injury during the team's Korea training last summer.



ASIAN F3 drivers show their machines in last year's street drive.

Street drive touches off final AF3 grind

THE ASIAN FORMULA THREE street drive next week at the Mall of Asia will highlight a hectic grind culminating in the last four rounds of the 2006 racing season at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Aside from the street drive set on Oct. 27 at the Esplanade of the Mall of Asia, the AF3 will hold a karting challenge this Sunday at the Speedzone of The Fort pitting members of the media against drivers coming from the sponsors' ranks and their guests in an enduro drive.

To drum up the last four rounds of the series set on Nov. 4-5 at the BRC, the AF3 Corp. will present the competing drivers, including three newcomers from Europe, on Oct. 31 at Pantalan Restaurant in Manila.

The winners of the 2006 season will be feted on Nov. 6 at the Silver City Automall in Pasig to coincide with the Ms AF3 Pageant, where the gorgeous ambassadors of next year's series will be chosen.

The street drive, being held in cooperation with Pasay City and the Philippine Reclamation Authority, will give motorsport enthusiasts a chance to witness up close the powerful racing machines, aside from go-karts, super bikes, touring cars and exotic cars.

Drivers representing Speedtech Asia, JA Motorsport, Aran Racing, Team Goddard, R&W Team Indonesia, Shell Helix Kinetic PCSO and Tuason Racing School will show their prowess in the street drive.

"Racing fans will be able to get a first-hand view of Asian and Philippine motorsport, meet the drivers and the 20 Ms AF3 candidates," said AF3 Corp. chair Ed Peña. "They will enjoy the next best show after Formula One."

Local racing stars led by Tyson Sy, Dado Peña, Michele Bumgarner and Gaby dela Merced, along with foreign drivers led by AF3 series leader James Winslow of Britain, will display their skills at the well-paved roads of the Mall of Asia Esplanade.

IPT man stirs a hornet's nest

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

HIS NAME MAY NOT RING A BELL TO MANY Filipino sports fans, but to the legions of billiards enthusiasts Kevin Trudeau will be remembered as the man who organized last month's 2006 International Pool Tour (IPT) World 8-Ball Open in Reno, Nevada, where Efren "Bata" Reyes won a fat paycheck for $500,000.

Although Reyes and the other money winners have yet to collect their prizes, they said they are not worried, stressing they are convinced that Trudeau will eventually honor his contract with them. Otherwise, he may have to pay up using proceeds from the sale of his vast properties in the United States.

Trudeau is now a rich businessman and sports impresario and, according to my sources, would not dare pull a rip-off and risk a jail term.

"That's not true," Reyes said. "All of us who took part in the Tour have faith in the IPT. Besides, it's just normal for big cash prizes to be handed out late sometimes."

Reyes said he had already received a whopping total of $250,000 in cash prizes from his past IPT winnings. "It's only this last IPT Open which is late, but Mr. Trudeau has written us to explain the reason for the delay."

Marlon Manalo, a semifinalist in last year's IPT, agreed with Reyes, saying although he has yet to collect his cash prize from the most recent IPT tournament, his purse of $99,000 from the 2005 event had been settled.

Trudeau e-mailed businessman and sports patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, benefactor of Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Alex Pagulayan and Manalo, saying he was sorry for the delay because of factors beyond his control.

He stressed that he was holding crucial negotiations with Macau billionaire and gambling mogul Stanley Ho, who is said to be interested in acquiring IPT for $150 million.

"We're convinced Mr. Trudeau will honor his commitments to the players," Puyat said. "After all, IPT already paid Filipino players some $1 million in its previous events."

Trudeau also e-mailed Bugsy Promotions' Perry Mariano, manager of Dennis Orcollo, Ronnie Alcano and Gandy Valle.

As far as many billiards fans are concerned, the reported scam was a cheap shot. It was not—in their opinion—a most significant event, but more of a desperate act by people who should be of better service to the community by helping those jobless and impoverished athletes instead of finding fault with our hard-working billiards players.

* * *

WORLD POOL SCENE IS All FILIPINO: If billiards were in the Olympic calendar, a Filipino would have been a winner already of that elusive Olympic gold.

In its latest issue, Billiards Digest, the prestigious Chicago-based American pool magazine, reported that 14 titles out of 49 world tournaments were won by players from the Philippines. Spearheading the Filipino pool pros is Reyes, who at 52, became the world's 8-ball champion by topping the IPT Tour in Reno.

A week before that, Reyes teamed up with longtime buddy and *kumpadre* Francisco "Django" Bustamante to win the World Cup of Pool in South Wales, Britain.

In 1994, Reyes won the 19th US Open in Chesapeake, Virginia, to become the first non-American winner of the annual event, beating then world champion Nick Varner of the United States. Reyes reached his crowning glory when he captured the World Pool Championship in 1999 in Cardiff, Wales. Also in 1999, Reyes also became the first Filipino player to endorse a US-made cue stick, putting the Philippines on the world map at no government expense.

Most recently, Reyes bagged top honors in the 2006 San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball Tour by winning the Jakarta and Vietnam legs. His twin victories led the Philippines to an unprecedented sweep of this year's Asian Tour where two other Filipinos—Ramil Gallego and Rodolfo Luat—won in Bangkok and Kaohsiung, Taiwan, respectively.

3-way battle for Touring Car plum

THE THREE-WAY BATTLE FOR top honors among Jody Coseteng of San Mig Coffee, Kookie Ramirez of Petron Ultron-SRA and Don Pastor of Bioactiv Team TEC is expected to be more intense this Sunday in the penultimate leg of the 2006 San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Coseteng is seeking a fourth straight sweep to fortify his bid for an 11th straight crown in the series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Ramirez could have foiled him in the last leg if not for brake pads and tire problems while Pastor remains a big threat.

COSETENG (right) and Ramirez (left) lead Sunday's cast at BRC.

Coseteng leads Group 1 with 114 points, 14 up on Ramirez with 100. Pastor is in third place with 76.

75 stagfights in Pasay today

COMPETITION IN THE 230-ENTRY METRO MANILA leg of the "No Entry Fee Labanan" 7-stag derby series shifts to the Pasay City Cockpit today with 75 matches on tap starting at 5 p.m. Conceptualized by popular cockfighter Patrick Antonio and backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the series dangles P1.3 million for the winners. The champion handler alone gets a jackpot prize of P200,000. The last day of elimination round unfolds on Oct. 24 at Araneta Coliseum. For inquiries, call 0916-4763030 or 0917-8064758.

Big derbies set in San Juan

A STRING OF BIG DERBIES KICKS OFF STARTING tomorrow at the San Juan Coliseum with the "Bugbugan" 5-stag derby backed by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. To be hosted by Louie Cua and Dori Du of Davao, the event's first of 100 fights starts at 2 p.m. Entries must be presented today at the SJC office, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. only. For inquiries, call 725-5369 or 725-5665. Up next on Oct. 23 is the second leg of the SJC Circuit 5-stag derby followed by the GCAP Championship 5-stag derby on Oct. 25.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—St. Emilion (4), Lady Victoria (3), Music Quest (1), Heart Of My Soul (6)

Race 2—(Ort/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (3), Interceptor (8), Hoy Sobra Na (5), Xangie's Halo (7)

Race 3—(Ort/Tri)—Arctic Desert (2), Rush (7), San Diego Force (1), Cognac Monnet (6)

Race 4—(Ort/Tri)—Queen Banana (2), Tiger Rafty (5), Uncle Buck (4), Sir Eirre (8)

Race 5—(Ort/Tri)—Triple Threat (7), Batang Westside (1), Ferrariono (3), Hand-Picked (5)

Race 6—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Crystal City (10), La Signorina (5), Mr. Lucas (2), D As In Dixie (1), Speed Admiral (11)

Race 7—(Ort/Tri)—Andee's Whisper (4), Prince Valiant (5), Kiwi Rose (2), Maginoo's Pride (6)

Race 8—(Penta/Ort/Tri)—Don't Tell Ella (7), Penny wise (2), Sand Peebles (4), Virginia (9), Summer Gear (5)

Race 9—(Super 6/Ort/Tri)—Top of D'Line (8), Hepburn (7), Golden Lance (1), Nitty Gritty (3), Carmalita (2), Jetprop/Odyssey (10)

S'woods-Masters shows 'em

Tagaytay Highlands duplicates Carmona ladies' romp in Group Two

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

BAGUIO CITY—MANILA SOUTHWOODS-MASTERS COMPLETED A WIRE-TO-wire run in the 4th Asian Ladies Team Championship and skipper Bernadette Abiera made it a double celebration by clinching the individual title yesterday at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

But newcomer Tagaytay Highlands shared the limelight with its own double kill as its second team also led all the way in ruling Group II and team captain Hedy See secured the individual crown.

Abierra finished with a second straight 47 points and Sandy Velhagen added a 42 as the Carmona, Cavite-based squad totaled 128 for the day and 386 overall for a 14-point win over Aguinaldo-Sampaguita.

Claudine Garcia contributed 39 to complete scoring for Southwoods, winner of the last two editions of the event before losing the title last year to Wack Wack, which did not field a team this time.

"It was a team effort," said Beachie Abierra, who wound up with a three-round total of 136 to beat Josie Untal of Aguinaldo-Sampaguita and Jo Barredo by four in the individual race among the tournament's single digit-handicap players.

The Aguinaldo ladies of Belen Ampong settled for second with 372 while Tagaytay Highlands I, with See taking over as scoring leader over teammates Marilen Yaptangco, Totelle Dimson and Farrah Imperial, held on to clinch third at 349.

Spearheaded by Maline Flores and Marge Tan, Tagaytay Highlands II won by 19 over Forest Hills (316-297) in Group II.

"We could not have asked for more," said See, the 46-year-old, piano-playing Tagaytay-Highlands leader as the team also feted the two other members of the winning squad—Rosalie Heo and Mely Layesa.

"We came here just to have fun and for some team bonding," added See, who took the Group II individual title by four over Rio Co of Sta. Elena with 131 (43-47-41).

Tagaytay also fared well and wound up fourth in Group III won by Baguio Country Club's Sonia Bruce, Mitos Benitez, Raquel Anderson and Nida Whybrow.

The individual title in the division went to Mabel Salivio of Aguinaldo-Sampaguita who nipped BCC's Bruce with the better last nine score (23-28) after both ended up tied with 125 points each.

The final standings:

Group I—Manila Southwoods-Masters 386 (126-132-128); Aguinaldo-Sampaguita 372 (118-130-124); Tagaytay Highlands 1 349 (120-112-117); Forest Nicklaus 346 (114-108-124); Camp John Hay 1 341 (115-111-115); Sta. Elena 338 (109-119-110); Forest Palmer 330 (102-113-115); Riviera Ladies 283 (97-86-100).

Group II—Tagaytay Highlands II 316 (105-111-100); Forest Hills 297 (98-96-103); Golf Divas 292 (93-95-104); Korean Ladies Association 287 (91-97-99); Villamor 275 (94-93-88); Manila Southwoods-Legends 268 (101-75-92); Malarayat Ladies 1 261 (75-94-92); Camp John Hay 11 260 (87-90-83); Aguinaldo-Rosal 244 (91-86-67).

Group III—Baguio Country Club 274 (86-92-96); WPGTA 267 (93-84-90); Philippine Axa Life 256 (86-94-76); Tagaytay Highlands III 255 (88-79-88); Don Bosco Golf Team 245 (83-90-72), Bloga 241 (66-86-89); Malarayat Ladies II 222 (66-76-81); Aguinaldo-Ilang Ilang 201 (61-63-77).

Poor start by Filipinas in World Am

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA—THE young Philippine ladies squad fumbled with an 11-over-par 155 Wednesday and trailed leader Japan by 18 shots at the start of the World Amateur Golf Team Championships.

The Filipinas simply succumbed to the pressure of playing against the world's finest shotmakers at the De Zalze Golf Club here.

Junior World champion Dottie Ardina, 12, birdied two of the first three holes but bogeyed four other holes and picked up once en route to a 76 (39-37).

The youngest player in a field of 126 from 42 countries settled for a 76 (39-37) that stood as the best score for the RP squad, which lay joint 31st with Norway after 18 holes of the 72-hole championship.

Debbie de Villa, 16, had a gutsy run of pars against two bogeys in the first nine holes for a 38. But the reigning RP Ladies Open champion yielded three more strokes on bogeys and picked up twice for an 81.

Cyna Rodriguez, the 14-year-old Junior World champion, fired a 79 and accounted for the Philippines' first day output in this three-to-play, two-to-count event.

Japan, tied for fourth in the 2004 edition in Puerto Rico, roared to a big start with a stirring seven-under 137 powered by Rikako Morita's 65. The Japanese stood two shots clear of defending champion Sweden, Taiwan and South Africa.

Pagadian five rips Cellular for 3rd win

PAGADIAN CITY—NEW RECRUIT MELVIN Mamaclay scored 26 points as the Pagadian Explorers turned back expansion team Cellular Pawnshop, 93-81, Wednesday night in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament here.

Mamaclay hit his stride in the second half, and together with ex-PBA veterans Peter Naron, Bong Marata and Nelson Asaytono, turned a 44-56 halftime deficit into a 79-67 lead going into the payoff period.

With their third straight victory in as many games, the Explorers of Mayor Sammy Co assumed solo leadership in the young tournament.

The Cellulars of Paulo Ybañez waxed hot in the first 20 minutes, racing to a 36-23 first quarter advantage.

Cellular Pawnshop suffered its second loss.

The scores:

PAGADIAN 93—Mamaclay 26, Naron 17, Marata 14, Asaytono 13, Orquillas 5, Malcontento 5, Oamandam 5, Singco 4, Johnson 2, Pamaran 2.

CELLULAR 81—Go 20, Ico 19, Aclon 11, Tiongson 7, Aquino 6, Salud 6, Giron 6, Dela Rea 3, Balares 3.

Quarters: 23-36, 44-56, 70-67, 93-81

Golf Show opens at Megamall today

THE GOLF DISTRIBUTORS ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines (GDAP) raises the curtains for the 11th Philippine International Golf Show starting today at the Megatrade Hall 2 of SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Thirty-eight firms with interests in various fields of the golf industry are joining the three-day Golf Show which will also feature seminars on various topics handled by the Philippine Turfgrass Association and new product presentations by the giant brands.

Preceding the show co-organized by Fairs&More and GDAP is the simple opening ceremony at 10 a.m. to be highlighted by awarding of the Golf Personality of the Year to business tycoon Ricky Razon.

Richie Macapagal, exhibit chair, said that several principals and VIPs of the equipment sector are in town to observe the show proceedings.

The RP Golf Show is one of the biggest in Asia and traditionally lures visitors from all over the region.

It has drawn the support of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines, the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines, the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines and the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc.

SMB . . .

From page A27

ty, in Filipino. "The last straw as to why management and the coaching staff let him go was a knee injury he supposedly has, which team doctors said was nothing."

Adducul and Tugade get an early chance to show their worth when the Beermen clash with Alaska today, still seeking a first win in the Philippine Cup which travels to the Ynares Center in Antipolo.

With Danny Seigle and Danny Ildefonso still out of commission because of injuries, Adducul comes in handy to this squad, the only winless side after more than two weeks of the tourney.

The game is set at 7:30 p.m. just after Talk 'N Text tries to rebound from a shock loss to the Air21 Wednesday night. *Musong Castillo*

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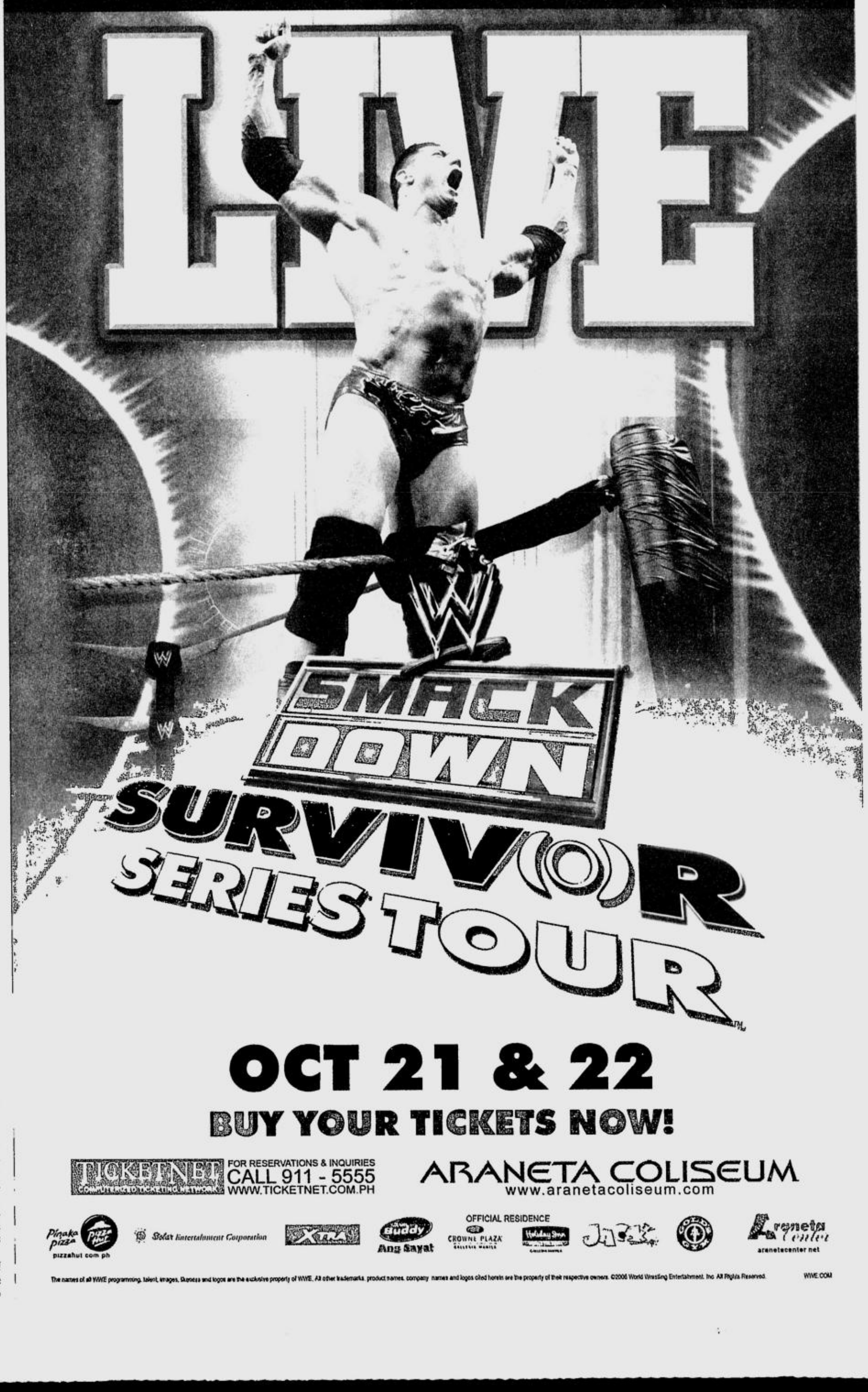

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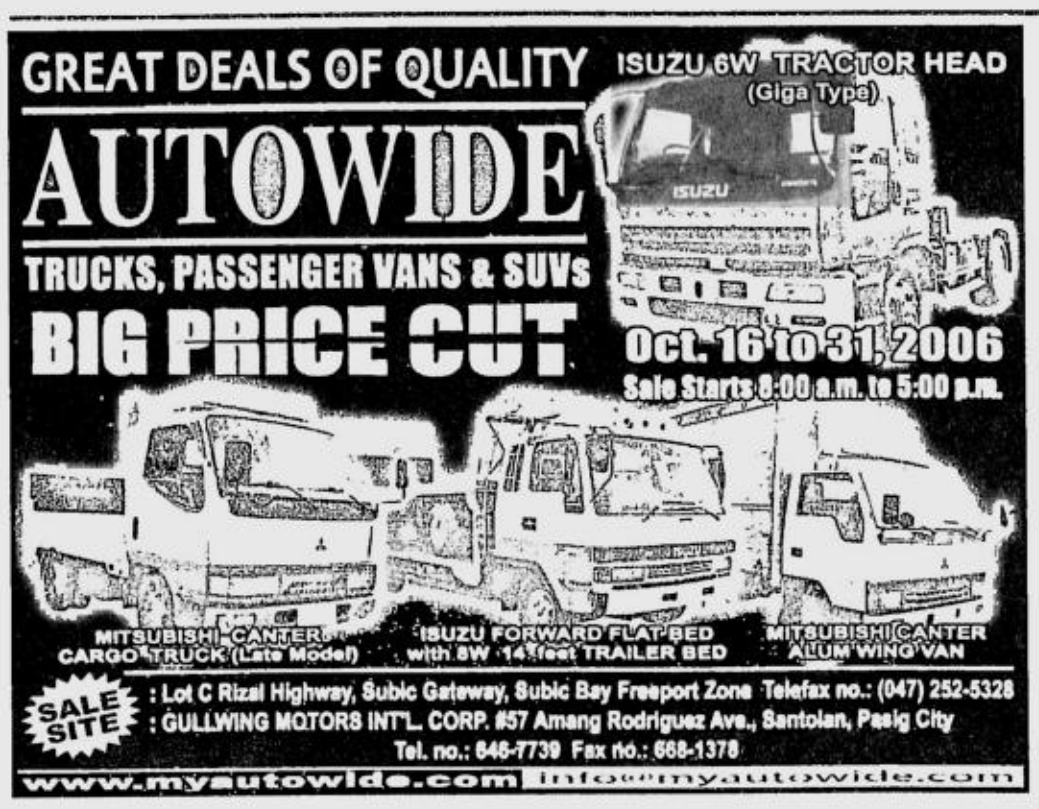
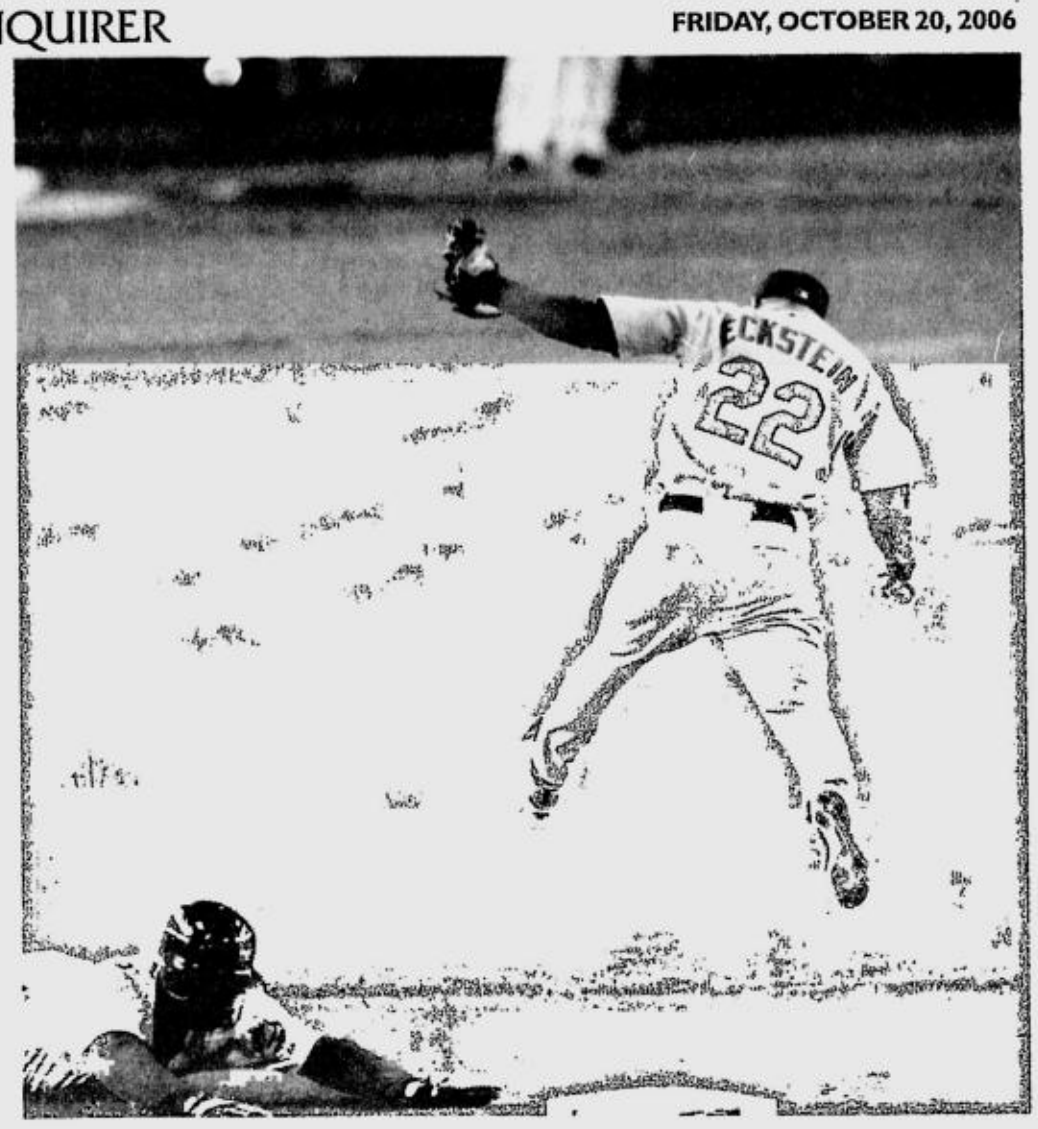
SPORTS





NEW York Mets' Michael Tucker (left) steals second as St. Louis Cardinals' David Eckstein leaps for the ball in the seventh inning of Game 6 in their National League Championship Series in New York City on Oct. 18. REUTERS

Mets nip Cards, forge do-or-die

NEW YORK—ROOKIE JOHN MAINE OUTdueled Cy Young winner Chris Carpenter as the Mets staved off elimination Wednesday with a 4-2 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals that set up a one-game showdown for a trip to the World Series.

The win tied the best-of-seven National League Championship Series at three games each with a deciding Game Seven in New York on Thursday as American League champion Detroit Tigers wait to see who they will host in Saturday's World Series opener.

"It's an experience you'll never forget," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said about playing a winner-take-all Game Seven.

"I'd prefer our club to not go through it, obviously, but it's magical."

Said Mets manager Willie Randolph: "A seventh game is exciting and we're looking forward to the challenge."

Maine, who had a 6-5 record with the Mets after coming over in a trade with the Baltimore Orioles, pitched into the sixth inning, giving up just two hits and no runs, and four relievers finished up.

The Cardinals threw a scare into the Mets by scoring two runs in the ninth with a two-out, two-run double by So Taguchi off struggling closer Billy Wagner. But the hard-throwing lefty got David Eckstein to ground out to second to end the game.

Jose Reyes triggered the offense with a lead-off homer in the first, one of three hits and two steals he contributed to the attack, and Paul Lo Duca provided some breathing room with a two-run single in the seventh that made it 4-0.

The Cardinals are scheduled to start Game Three winner Jeff Suppan, who shut the Mets out for eight innings on three hits in the Cardinals' 5-0 win, in the series finale.

The Mets will counter with 25-year-old left-hander Oliver Perez, pitching on short rest. Despite posting a 3-13 mark in the regular season, the Mexican fireballer held St. Louis in check to get the win in New York's 12-5 Game Four win on Sunday.

Maine, 25, was shaky at the start and the Cardinals squandered a golden opportunity in the first inning. Jim Edmonds struck out with runners on second and third and one out, and Scott Rolen left the bases loaded with two out by flying out to left. *Reuters*

Nadal advances, 4 seeds tumble

MADRID, SPAIN—RAFAEL NADAL EASILY won the opener of his Madrid Masters title defense but all three of last week's winners on the ATP tour crashed out Wednesday.

Third-ranked Ivan Ljubicic (Vienna champion), No. 5 Nikolay Davydenko (Moscow) and No. 7 James Blake (Stockholm) were among six seeds to lose second-round matches on the day.

However, Nadal didn't drop a serve while hitting 15 winners off American qualifier Mardy Fish's second serve in a 6-4, 6-2 victory. The world No. 2 saved his best for last, breaking Fish in the penultimate game with a no-look crosscourt forehand which left the capacity crowd—including Real Madrid stars David Beckham and Raul—in disbelief. *AP*

RAFAEL Nadal: Fiery and deadly AP

University of Luzon five nails Prisaa cage title

UNIVERSITY OF LUZON'S GOLDen Tigers downed University of Pangasinan, 85-79, recently to win the Prisaa Invitational Basketball crown at the People's Astrodome in Dagupan City.

The Golden Tigers swept the best-of-three final to capture their seventh title in eight years.

Bull-strong Jenkens Bucao and streak-shooting Rod Natavio pushed the Golden Tigers of team manager Councilor Chito Samson to a 14-8 lead before Simon Velasco and Erwin Reate combined to give UL the half, 56-40.

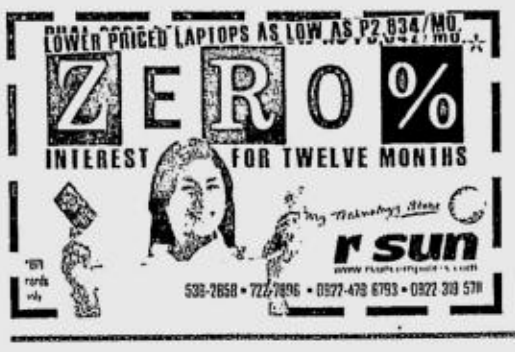
Natavio went on to emerge MVP even as Tigers coach Renato Vidal was chosen Coach of the Year.

In their first game on Oct. 5, University of Pangasinan walked out of the game with three seconds remaining in the third quarter and UL ahead, 72-60. The game was awarded to University of Luzon.

The other members of the Golden Tigers aside from Bucao, Velasco, Reate and Natavio are Brainnier de Leon, Christopher de Vera, Bryan Bangal, Marlon Ureta, Martin Callao, Gian delos Angeles, Mark Ernest Fernandez, Rankin Bautista, Edwin Lopez, Raul Cabatbat, Ejerson Magsano and Alvin Clores.

PSC shuttlers capture GCAA crown again

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) TEAM CLINCHED ITS SECOND straight overall title in the Government Corporate Athletics Association (GCAA) badminton tournament Wednesday at the Rizal Memorial Badminton Indoor Center. The PSC shuttlers dominated the seniors division via a 3-0 rout of Social Security System (SSS), while finishing first runner-up to Trans Communication in the Open class in the annual tournament. The tandem of playing-coach Datu Alex Kiram and Loloy Martinez sparked PSC's run in the senior class, beating SSS' Noel Manalo and Koko Lachica in the men's doubles, 21-18, 21-14. Lita Agustin and Ella Andaquig followed suit with a 21-13, 21-13 victory over Olie Afuang and Gloria Ocampo in the women's doubles, before the duo of Arnold Agustin and Analyn dela Cruz capped PSC's domination with a 21-11, 21-11 win against Tin Garnica and Ver Mendoza in the mixed side. Transcom edged PSC, 2-1, in the Open class.



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Stock market surges to 7-year high

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 1.99 PERCENT HIGHER, pushing the index to its strongest finish in seven years, buoyed by investors' bullish sentiment toward the country's economic outlook.

Dealers said that most investors remain positive on the country's economic prospects and are looking forward to strong quarterly results from the major companies.

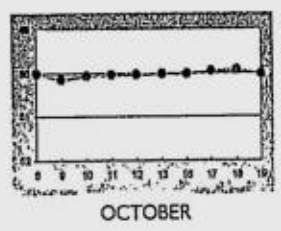
The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 50.62 points, or almost 2 percent, to 2,597.15, just off the high of 2,599.86 and a low of 2,546.53. It was the market's best close since July 13, 1999.

Last Wednesday, the index rose 0.1 percent.

SHARE/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.015 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 19, 2006

GOLD: $589.00-589.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 19, 2006

STOCK MARKET

(See stock market report on Page B4)

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Photos by George Tapan

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Gov't saved P17.2B in interest payments in 9 mos.

Debt servicing, infrastructure, social services spending slightly exceeded target in Sept.

By Michelle V. Remo

A STRONGER PESO AND THE LOWER-than-expected interest rates helped the government save P17.2 billion in interest payments on debts during the first nine months of the year, the Bureau of the Treasury said.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the government's improving fiscal condition perked up market confidence, thereby pulling down the cost of its maturing foreign and domestic liabilities.

"The market is putting very little premium on our borrowings and is giving us a lot of discount," Cruz said.

Government data showed that it had allotted P271.7 billion in January to September for interest payments, but its actual spending reached only P254.5 billion.

For September, however, the government's interest payments of P33 billion slightly exceeded the programmed P32.7 billion.

Cruz said it was a deliberate move not only for debt payments but also for infrastructure and social services spending, to make up for the slack in spending in the previous months. However, he said the government would not exceed its expenditure limits for the whole year.

Lower interest rates on treasury bills and bonds had reduced the cost of government borrowings.

The stronger-than-expected peso likewise brought down the cost of servicing maturing foreign currency-denominated obligations.

Under the 2006 fiscal program, the government assumed a 54-56 to US$1 exchange rate. The peso, however, appreciated in the past several months, touching the 49-to-a-dollar level in September and, again, this month.

The strengthening of the peso was partly attributed to the strong dollar inflows, particularly from overseas Filipino workers, and the bullish performance of the exports sector.

Despite the savings, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government did not have flexibility to use the savings to pay in advance obligations that have yet to mature. This is because most of the government's debt contracts do not allow earlier-than-scheduled payments, he said.

The government spends about a third of its annual budget for payment of interests on its nearly P4 trillion worth of outstanding debts.

MVP-Zobel hamburger detente

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

MANUEL V. PANGILINAN AND THE ZOBELS may be fierce telecom competitors but that does not mean they cannot share a good hamburger. The official Ayala Corp. line is that the Zobel-led conglomerate has divested itself of the losing Burger King in favor of the MVP-Alberto Lina group.

But what Ayala disclosure-thrifty officer Renato Marzan withheld is that the publicly listed firm will still be a silent, and still significant, partner of the US hamburger venture.

Marzan said Ayala Corp. sold over 54.9 million shares, about 99.85 percent, of the local Burger King franchisee to the MVP-Lina group. What he did not and could not disclose, according to the grapevine, is that Ayala Corp. would in turn receive about 80 million in preferred shares of the same company from the new owners.

According to the grapevine, the MVP-Lina group acquired the 22-store Burger King chain for P75 million, as well as assumed the chain's debts totaling P50 million.

It is not immediately clear who will lead the venture, but given Alberto Lina's freight-forwarding and logistical background and the time on his hands since his Hyatt 10 co-conspirators failed to tip Ate Glue out of her Malacañang seat, we will not be surprised if the former Customs chief would himself take on the chief flipper role in the venture.

Incidentally, in addition to MVP and Lina, the new owners of Burger King also include Tanduay president Wilson Young, PLDT executive vice president Ricky Vargas and Lito Alvarez, president of Air 21 cargo forwarding company.

Fast to cash

ISABELA RTC Judge Raul Babaran is a nominee for the Court of Appeals, but it looks like his honor needs to brush up on procedural law.

Reason?

The Regional Trial Court judge issued a writ of execution awarding P145 million to an Isabela borrower even before the entry of judgment could be made by his clerk of court, according to a PNB complaint.

Compounding the error, Babaran ordered Philippine National Bank to "refund" P145 million even though the claim was not prayed for by the Isabela borrower, who merely listed P90 million in "interest payments" he had made against his borrowed amount, in his case against PNB.

Follow the money

RENE A.V. SAGUISAG could very well add a new client, former Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, to the list of hopeless cases the former senator has taken on.

Saguisag has asked the Supreme Court to reverse itself and stop the Anti-Money Laundering Council from examining the money trail emanating from a bank account registered in Alvarez's name.

Chances of such reversal are remote, since, according to the minute resolution released by the Supreme Court last week, no less than Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban approved the order to pry open the Alvarez account.

The account was opened at DBS Bank, which has since been taken over by Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The BPI account is separate from seven other Alvarez accounts, also now being similarly investigated in connection with the Naia Terminal 3 scandal, at Philippine Bank of Communications, BPI Family Savings Bank, Equitable PCIBank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp, according to court records.

Money-go-round

- THE REOPENING of PriceSmart as S&R has been reset to Nov. 9.
- Rustan's Fresh, at least the Greenbelt branch, is running out of merchandise as the end-of-the-month takeover by affiliate Shopwise nears.

Heard through the grapevine

WE REGRET to announce the passing of lawyer Tom del Castillo, the chief, and by far the best, libel defender of Ramon Tulfo, the INQUIRER and the newspaper industry.

(Email: cocktales@cocktales.biz)

PAL borrowing $600M for fleet upgrading plan

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES IS SEEKING A LOAN of up to $600 million from three European export credit agencies to fund its $840-million aircraft upgrade program, the flag carrier said yesterday.

The carrier is buying four new Airbus A-319 aircraft this year and six A-320s between 2007 and 2008 to help it increase its presence in growing markets such as China.

The airline is in the final phase of talks for a loan of $400-$600 million with credit agencies in Britain, France and Germany, company president and COO Jaime Bautista said.

"In the next few years, we will be flying new routes and increasing frequencies in growing markets such as China, while making sure that we maintain our hold on destinations where we are strong—such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, South Korea and in the US," Bautista said.

PAL will beef up its presence, particularly in China where the airline has posted its biggest percentage growth so far.

"Since we began flying to Beijing in November last year, we have increased our capacity by 25 percent and with more flights to Beijing, Xiamen and Shanghai before the end of the year, we expect to raise our capacity by 67 percent."

In terms of profits, Bautista said that higher fuel and finance costs would cut net profit for the current fiscal year ending March 2007 to less than $20 million from $28.74 million in the previous year.

"Our fuel costs alone already account for 35 percent of our total costs. We are only able to collect 70 percent (in) fuel surcharge from passengers, the rest we subsidize," he said.

In the meantime, President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected grace today's unveiling of PAL's newest aircraft, an Airbus A319-100.

PAL/ B3

Gen. Narciso Abaya (Ret.)

Just the truth, General Abaya:

Can you look at every local and foreign investor in our country straight in the eye and tell them there was NOTHING WRONG with your actions in Poro Point?

You said:
"What I merely did..is to request the Philippine Ports Authority for assistance...
That is my duty. **What is wrong with that?**" Abaya added.

[The Philippine Star, page B-8, Saturday, October 7, 2006]

The Sunday Times

Investors disturbed, officials scared by

Poro Point conflict

Businessmen protest

An official of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines who declined to be named asked: "Are we back to the days of the Marcos era when powerful politicians with links to the military and police and maybe even the underworld can push aside legitimate industrialists and businessmen?"

The head of the commercial and industrial office of a European embassy said: "We thought the NAIA 3 fiasco was a one-time debacle for Philippine government trade and industry relations. We thought they would learn to be more careful. But they seem not to learn their lesson at all."

Asked if the Poro Point conflict disturbed him, Michael Wooton, chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce Philippines, said, "This could be another case of Piatco, which is not good for foreign investors."

Similar words come from the European Chamber of Commerce and Industry, whose Henry Schumacher says conflicts like this could be "an indication that the government does not have the ability to honor its contracts."

Robert Sears of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) said, "The Philippines must stop flip-flopping on policy issues."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Workers suffer heaviest from port closure

THESE, PERHAPS, WERE "WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT", GENERAL?

- "The stalemate (at Poro Point) has led local businessmen and foreign investors to rethink their options".
- **"Robert Sears of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham)** said, "The Philippines must stop flip-flopping on policy issues."
- "Asked if the Poro Point conflict disturbed him, **Michael Wooton, Chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce Philippines** said.. "This could be another case of Piatco, which is not good for foreign investors'."
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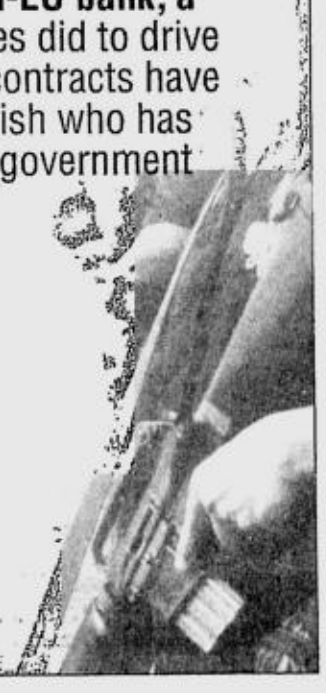
- **"The head of the commercial and industrial office of a European Embassy** said: "We thought the NAIA 3 fiasco was a one-time debacle for Philippine government trade and industry relations. We thought they would learn to be more careful. But they seem not to learn their lesson at all'."
- **"The Philippine country representative for a big Dutch-EU bank, a Filipino** said: 'It's the same thing that the Marcos cronies did to drive away foreign investors...I can never be sure that after contracts have been signed and carried out for some years, some big fish who has the power over the government or who has relatives in government will suddenly have the contract rescinded or nullified'."

[Special Report, The Manila Times, October 15,2006 page A2]



"The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear"
Herbert Sebastian Agar (American poet, playwright, columnist and editor, 1934 Pullitzer Prize winner)

Poro Point Industrial Corporation
Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point, San Fernando, La Union 2500

PAL ...

From page B2

The event also launches the much-anticipated modernization of the flag carrier's single-aisle fleet.

The new fleet features a 21st-century enhanced cabin that is the first for an Asian carrier, state-of-the-art passenger amenities, and a new coastal-themed interior design.

Other guests—including Vice President Noli de Castro, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, Transportation Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza, Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila and Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano—will join President Arroyo at the roll-out ceremonies to be held at the main hangar of Lufthansa Technik Philippines in Pasay City.

PAL chair and CEO Lucio C. Tan, vice chair and treasurer Mariano Tanenglian, and president and Bautista will welcome the President to the event. *AFP*

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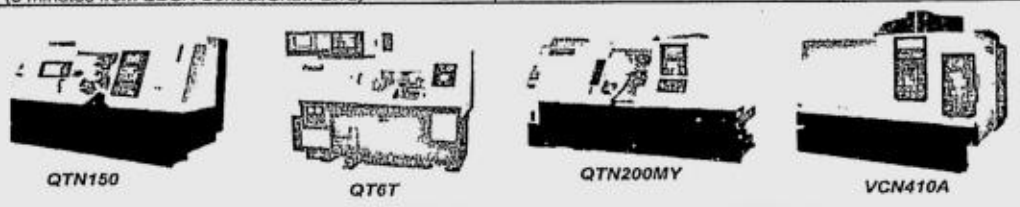
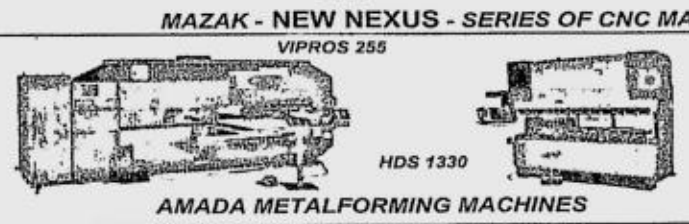
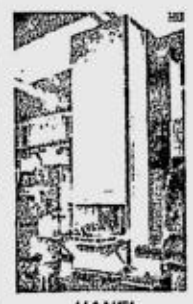


MAZAK - NEW NEXUS - SERIES OF CNC MACHINES

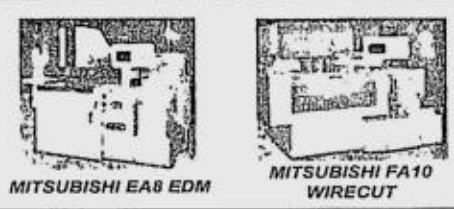


AMADA METALFORMING MACHINES

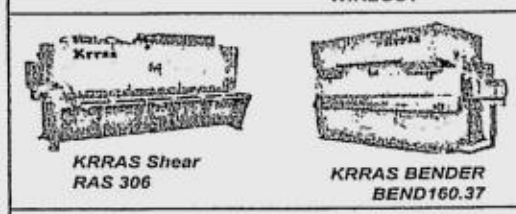
CIMATRON CADICAM SOFTWARE



HANEL STORAGE SYSTEMS

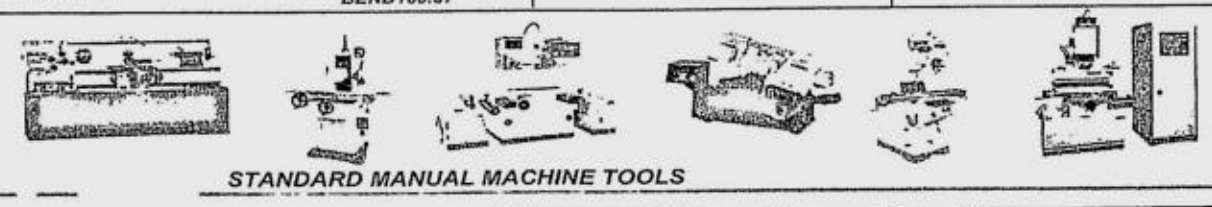


MITUTOYO MEASURING MACHINES



CHEVALIER VMC 1418

MITSUI SEIKI AIR COMPRESSORS



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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Oct. 17, 2006	Last Week Oct. 10, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.51874	1.52216
Managed Fund - Peso	1.68567	1.68678
Growth Fund - Peso	1.38667	1.38084
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.3150	1.3105

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE — Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure

	Investment Funds of Wealth Builder & Wealth Secure UNIT PRICES (In Php)	
	Oct. 16, 2006	Oct. 9, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.207032	1.209271
Balanced Fund	1.230552	1.224594
Equity Fund	1.289527	1.264337

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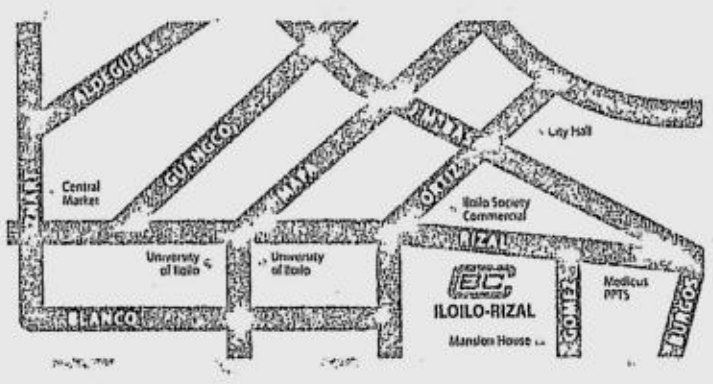

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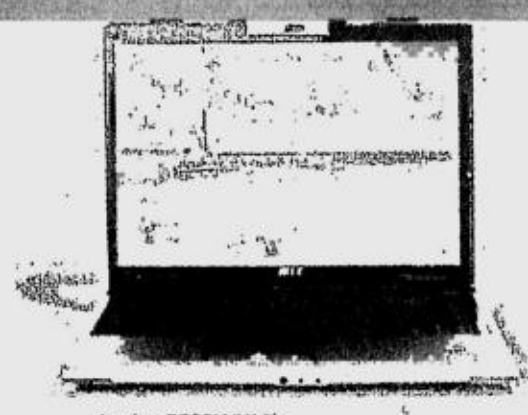

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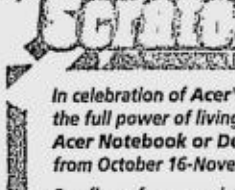

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Bullish trade seen to boost GDP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPment Authority said bullish exports and higher government spending would help the country at least maintain in the third quarter the 5.5 percent annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth recorded in the second quarter.

GDP, the most common tool to measure an economy's performance, is the sum of the value of goods and services sold within an economy in a given period.

Using current prices in the third quarter of last year, GDP hit P1.34 trillion.

GDP growth, however, is measured using 1985 constant prices to factor out inflation. Using 1985 constant prices, GDP was valued at P294 billion in the third quarter of 2005.

"Exports are doing very well and spending was higher ... reasons why the government had a (budget) deficit in September," Neda Director General Romulo Neri told reporters yesterday at the sidelines of the Philippine Business Conference held at Manila Hotel.

He said the government would still stick to its forecast that the GDP growth for the full year would hit the lower end of the 5.5- to 6.1-percent range.

GDP growth stood at 5.7 percent in the first quarter and averaged 5.6 percent in the first half.

Surge in global demand for electronics, the Philippines' major export product, helped boost the country's exports, which reached $30.954 in January to August, reflecting a 16.9-percent growth from the same period a year ago.

The government spent more than what was programmed in September to compensate for the slowdown in spending of the previous months. As a result, the government posted a P16.2-billion budget in September, exceeding the P12.6-billion ceiling set for the month.

On a cumulative basis, however, the government still had huge spending room. The deficit for the first nine months of the year was at P50.4 billion compared with the P122-billion ceiling stated under the 2006 fiscal program.

Meralco to start negotiations with Napocor

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED MANILA ELECTRIC CO. AND the state-run National Power Corp. next week will begin negotiations for a bilateral power supply agreement.

In an interview, Meralco president and chief operating officer Jesus Francisco said the initial meeting between the two entities would be set today and should take place by next week.

Francisco said Meralco actually initiated discussions for a bilateral power supply contract when it wrote Napocor president Cyril del Callar last Aug. 26, signifying its interest to forge an agreement.

On Oct. 6, Del Callar responded positively, he added.

"The next step is to designate the negotiating teams and set an initial meeting," Francisco said.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla earlier said that Meralco and Napocor should be encouraged to work out a long-term supply contract to ensure stable electricity supply and rates.

Lotilla said the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) should not be considered as a substitute for bilateral supply agreements, adding that sourcing electricity from the spot market was good only up to a certain level as prices there were very volatile.

Stability would only come from long-term supply contracts, he said.

"Spot prices are not a substitute for long-term supply contracts, which will give stability to prices and facilitate the entry of new capacity to meet future demand," Lotilla said." The (Department of Energy) continues to encourage distribution utilities to take the long-term view and enter into long-term supply contracts, which would ensure adequate supply at reasonable prices for customers."

Stock market ...

From page B1

The broader all-share index rose 26.60 points to 1,598.07. Gainers led losers 88 to 15, with 55 stocks unchanged. Turnover totaled 1.46 billion shares worth P2.49 billion ($4.98 million).

Joey Roxas of Eagle Equities attributed the market's strong showing to the prospect of lower interest rates, better metal prices, lower oil prices and stronger peso.

The peso averaged 50 to the dollar at midday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) led the day's winners, helping push the key index within a whisker of the crucial 2,600 points level.

PLDT jumped P70 or 3.19 percent to close at a 3-week high of P2,265 on expectations that the country's largest telecommunications firm will deliver healthy profits and steady dividends.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno on Tuesday said that the company was considering raising its dividend payout to 70 percent of core earnings by next year, from 60 percent this year.

AB Capital Securities research director Jose Vistan also said that PLDT received a boost from the 2.8 percent advance in the company's American depositary receipts in New York Wednesday.

"Despite the short-term hiccups preventing the market from breaking out of its consolidation range, investors remain generally bullish about the country's economic prospects," Accord Capital Equities analyst Lawrence de Leon said. "The peso is strong and the central bank may cut key interest rates soon.

"We ended just a few points shy of the key 2,600-point level, which indicates that these positive economic factors are not being ignored totally despite recent pullbacks."

Other active stocks included SM Prime, up 1.2 percent to P8.50 on the expected pick-up in earnings from its mall operation as Christmas approaches.

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.'s A-shares rose 50 centavos to P66.50 and its B-shares gained 50 centavos to P73.50.

Megaworld advanced 1 percent to P2, as the real estate concern is expected to benefit from its expanding list of projects. *AP, AFP*

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Republic of the Philippines
Regional Office 10
Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City

Standard Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Revised on: July 28, 2004

RO10-2007
Contract for the Supply of Security Services CY-2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *National Food Authority, Region 10*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites security agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Contracts for the Supply of Security Services for NFA Region 10
Location : Office, warehouse structures and installations within the jurisdiction of NFA-Region 10 (NFA-Misamis Oriental/Cagayan de Oro City/Camiguin, Bukidnon and Lanao Norte)
Brief Description : Contract involves the supply of security services for CY 2007 to provinces under operational jurisdiction of NFA Region 10 - Northern Mindanao
Contract Duration : January 2007 - December 31, 2007
Delivery Period : January 2007 - December 31, 2007

CONTRACT NO.	PROVINCE	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF GUARDS	MONTHLY RATE PER GUARD	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
1.	Misamis Oriental/ Cagayan de Oro City/ Camiguin	30 4	P 12,367.58 P11,876.71	P 5,022,410.88
2.	Bukidnon	31	P 12,122.14	P 4,509,436.08
3.	Lanao Norte	13	P 12,367.58	P 1,929,342.48

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding and complemented with key personnel and equipment (owned) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is incidated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluaton of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	ADDRESS	DATE	TIME
1 Issuance of Bid Documents	2F, NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Oct. 23 to Oct. 31, 2006	8:00 AM 5:00 PM Working Days
2. Pre-Bid Conference	Conference Room, 2 Floor NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Nov. 03, 2006	1:30 PM
3. Deadline for Submission and Receipt of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents	Conference Room, 2 Floor NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Nov. 17, 2006	1:30 PM
4. Opening of Bids	Conference Room, 2 Floor NFA-10 Regional Office, Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City	Nov. 17, 2006	1:31 PM

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon presentation of Letter of Intent bearing the correct name of the agency that will participate in the Bidding and payment of a non-refundable, non transferable bidding fee in the following amount: Contract No. 1-P10,000.00, Contract No. 2-P9,000.00 and Contract No. 3-P4,000.00 to the Cashier of National Food Authority-Baloy, Cagayan de Oro City. Representatives of the agency purchasing Bid Documents must be equipped with a Special Power of Attorney to purchase the documents for and in behalf of the agency.

The National Food Authority, Region 10 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The *National Food Authority, Region 10* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Bidders.

(Sgd.) CAMILO D. MAGTRAYO
BAC-Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 20 & 26, 2006)

AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 911-4071 to 80

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR SECURITY SERVICES

1. The **AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM (AFP-RSBS)** now invites Bids from Eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Security Services for the following AFP-RSBS properties as stated below:

PROJECT	LOCATION	NO. OF GUARDS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	COST OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID DOCUMENTS (non-refundable)
Security Services for Calamba/Tanuan, Batangas Property	Calamba, Laguna/Tanauan, Batangas	23	P3,588,000.00	P5,500.00
Security Services for General Santos Property	General Santos City	7	P960,000.00	P1,500.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
3. Interested parties shall submit proposal/s on any or all of the aforementioned projects. One project is equivalent to a single award or contract, separate and distinct from each other.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **AFP-RSBS** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 am to 5:00 pm*.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents will be available for issuance to interested applicants from **6 November 2006** and may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount as above-stated. The method of payment will be *cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *AFP-RSBS* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **November 20, 2006, 2:00 pm at AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFPRSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or **before 9:00 am of 4 December 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of *cash, check or bank guarantee* and in the amount specified in the Bid Data Sheet or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. **Bid opening** shall be on **December 4, 2006, 9:05 am** at the **AFP-RSBS Board Room, AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the following address:

Bids and Awards Committee
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel Nos. 9114071 local 204/289/281

10. The *AFP-RSBS reserves* the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BGEN. FRANKLIN C. ACOSTA (Ret)**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 20 & 27, 2006)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 19, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.7	6.1	5.7	6	314,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	40.5	41	40.5	41	2,734,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55.5	56.5	55.5	56	3,070,000
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	5,350
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	540,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	65	68	65	67.5	160,600
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	47	47	47	47	500
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	18,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	18	19,400
Security Bank Corp.	54.5	55	54.5	54.5	29,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	46	46	45.5	45.5	2,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.45	4.55	4.4	4.5	538,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1560	1615	1560	1600	1,670
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	58,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	243	243	243	243	500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1960	1970	1960	1970	390
Ivantage Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	2,641,000
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	50.5	52	50.5	52	710,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp	50.5	51.5	50.5	50.5	860,300
Manila Electric Co. A	26	28	26	28	716,700
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33	32.5	33	1,083,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	4,217,000
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.1	4.05	4.05	3,367,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	570,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	1	1	300,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	23,000
Cadp Group Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	6,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.25	22.5	22.25	22.25	44,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	39.5	40.5	39.5	40	1,458,100
Pancake House Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	10,000
RFM Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.14	1,037,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.85	3.8	3.8	704,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66.5	65	66.5	150,100
San Miguel Corp. B	73	73.5	73	73.5	277,900
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.75	19.25	19.75	979,500
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.44	0.47	0.43	0.43	51,980,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.6	2.75	2.6	2.7	4,645,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	2.02	2.06	2	2.02	770,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.8	2,350,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.12	2.14	759,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc	4.6	4.85	4.6	4.65	981,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	4,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.66	0.72	0.66	0.72	275,260,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.185	0.2	0.185	0.185	83,070,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	20,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	86,000,000
Ayala Corp.	490	492.5	490	492.5	189,320
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	840,000
Alo Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.032	0.03	0.031	34,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.46	2.5	2.46	2.5	555,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	4,970,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.92	1,510,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	47,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.42	1.46	1.4	1.4	10,859,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.35	4.45	4.35	4.4	765,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.7	0.73	0.7	0.73	550,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	269,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.56	1.66	1.54	1.64	3,690,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	7.3	7.6	7.3	7.5	4,367,000
Keppel Holdings	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	5,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,000,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	1.92	1.98	1.92	1.98	76,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.5	1.68	1.5	1.64	15,252,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	15,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.19	3,540,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.77	0.83	0.77	0.77	3,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	5,050,000
SM Investments Corp.	267.5	277.5	267.5	275	554,120
South China Resources Inc	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	300,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	240,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	16,500,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.13	0.14	4,360,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	3,527,300
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	180,000
Belle Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.08	5,057,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.28	841,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	5,580,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3	3.15	3	3.1	1,513,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.7	45,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	8,200,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	60,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	8,390,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,695,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0675	0.07	0.0625	0.0675	26,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.64	1.68	1.64	1.64	7,493,000
Gotesco Land, Inc	0.12	0.135	0.12	0.135	110,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	20,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,470,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.85	0.85	4,790,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	46,429,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.2	3.3	787,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	2,370,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	500,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.56	6,000
Robinsons Land Corp	13.25	13.25	13	13	2,108,500
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,120,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.84	650,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.5	27,864,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	170,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	10,400,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	19	19.75	19	19.75	129,300
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1.02	1	1.02	40,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Information Capital Tech.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	188,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	8,814,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1110	1135	1110	1115	35,660
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.85	4.9	4.8	4.8	4,163,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2210	2275	2210	2265	226,330
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	5,000,000
Ionics Inc.	2	2	1.94	1.94	21,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	1,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	8,500,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	8,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	40,700,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.2	675,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	20	19.75	19.75	360,800
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	320,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	11,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	779,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	26	26	26	26	1,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.22	2.24	2.16	2.22	6,519,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.34	1,900,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.95	3.05	2.95	3.05	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.47	0.52	0.47	0.52	9,530,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	10,000
Ipeople Inc	2.95	3	2.95	2.95	9,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	165,000
Paxys Inc.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	508,100
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	1,773,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	1,257,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	149,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.5	8.2	8.4	2,189,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	50,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2	2	2	2	10,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	3,980,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,370,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.02	33,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	66,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	67,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.7	3.85	3.65	3.8	6,479,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	395,500
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	2,310,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.73	0.73	0.69	0.69	6,060,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	2,110,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	143,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	250,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10	10	9.9	9.9	68,000

CURRENCIES

October 19, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.797894	1.000000	49.9350
Japan	Yen	0.006709	0.008409	0.4199
United Kingdom	Pound	1.489986	1.867400	93.2486
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102501	0.128464	6.4148
Switzerland	Franc	0.628016	0.787092	39.3034
Canada	Dollar	0.702309	0.880204	43.9530
Singapore	Dollar	0.506438	0.634719	31.6947
Australia	Dollar	0.601050	0.753296	37.6158
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.116541	2.652661	132.4606
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212754	0.266645	13.3149
Brunei	Dollar	0.504836	0.632711	31.5944
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000109	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.021363	0.026774	1.3370
UAE	Dirham	0.217244	0.272272	13.5959
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.253300	62.5835
Argentina	Peso	0.257385	0.322581	16.1081
Brazil	Real	0.374246	0.469043	23.4217
Denmark	Kroner	0.134159	0.168141	8.3961
India	Rupee	0.017621	0.022085	1.1028
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217410	0.272480	13.6063
Mexico	New Peso	0.073590	0.092230	4.6055
New Zealand	Dollar	0.529072	0.663086	33.1112
Norway	Kroner	0.117821	0.147665	7.3737
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013184	0.016523	0.8251
South Africa	Rand	0.105229	0.131883	6.5856
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.001047	0.0523
Sweden	Kroner	0.108122	0.135509	6.7666
Syria	Pound	0.015371	0.019264	0.9619
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024076	0.030175	1.5068
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000372	0.000466	0.0233

Export to South Africa, RP urged

By Christine A. Gaylican

SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR PIETER Vermeulen has urged local companies to consider exporting goods to his country, which is need of semiconductors, automotive parts and agricultural products.

Vermeulen told businessmen at the Philippine Business Conference yesterday that South Africa should be considered as a new, nontraditional market with great potential.

"There are business opportunities in tourism, export of automotive parts, agro-processing and bio-fuels, chemicals and allied industries, as well as in the areas of services and business outsourcing," Vermuelen said.

He noted that Philippine companies could take advantage of these niche markets.

He said potential joint ventures could be established between Philippine and South African companies as bilateral business ties have yet to be fully explored.

According to trade statistics, the Philippines exported some $35.5 million worth of goods to South Africa last year.

Top exports include machine parts and accessories, canned tuna, automotive parts, gear boxes, data processing machines, photocopiers and semiconductors.

However, there is a trade imbalance in favor of South Africa as the Philippines imported $51.5 million worth of goods, primarily steel products.

"We could close this trade gap as Philippine firms realize the potential business opportunities in my country," he said.

The ambassador also pointed out that South African mining firms, including the fifth largest gold producer in the world, Harmony Gold Operation Ltd., have signified eagerness to invest in the Philippines.

Greg Job, manager of Harmony's new business and exploration unit, said he visited Mount Diwalwal earlier this week to look at the possibility of investing there.

With money must come accountability

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

At 4:43AM LAST OCT. 13, 198 HOUSE MEMbers ended 18 hours of plenary debate and passed the country's first trillion-peso budget. At long last, the Department of Agriculture got a significant increase in its budget.

The new DA budget of P19.3 billion is still less than the P20-billion budget in 2002 when I left the Department of Agriculture. It is also far less than the P33 billion mandated by the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act. But it is significantly better than the previous budgets of P16.8 billion in 2003; P13.6 billion in 2004; P13.5 billion in 2005, and P15.8 billion in 2006.

The increase may have been due to the intense lobbying for a larger DA budget by the Alyansa Agrikultura, composed of 39 federations and organizations representing major agricultural and fisheries sectors. In its common agri-fishery agenda, which all presidential candidates agreed to in 2004, the Alyansa states: "Government budget allocation must shift from urban to rural standing, thus significantly increasing rather than decreasing the DA annual budget."

The Alyansa felt betrayed when this did not happen. Members were further dismayed when they found out that in the 2006 supplemental budget of P46.9 billion, DA did not get a single centavo. This contrasts with items such as the P1.5-billion subsidy for the MRT-3 to benefit the urban population. This contradicts the direction which all presidential candidates agreed to in 2004.

The Alyansa consequently embarked on an intense lobbying effort with key House and Senate leaders to increase the DA budget for 2007. The new 2007 DA budget of P19.3 billion is still insufficient, but the change is in the right direction.

Accountability

There has also been some progress in the following Alyansa agri-fishery agenda item, also committed to by the presidential candidates in 2004: "Ensure small farmer and fisherfolk involvement in the formulation, allocation and monitoring of the budget for agriculture..."

In the Alyansa meeting with Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban last Aug. 4, he agreed to this agricultural budget monitoring, but limited this initially to the rice and corn budget. Fortunately, this started the reversal of a pattern of nondisclosure and nontransparency that had characterized the DA budget in previous years.

The next month, on Sept. 15, this budget monitoring was expanded. During the European Union-funded "Reforming Fiscal Governance in Fisheries" conference sponsored by the Alyansa and Tambuyog Development Center Foundation (TDC), Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director Malcom Sarmiento had committed to a monthly fisheries budget monitoring. He also identified TDC, which advocates small fisherfolk interests, as a key participant in this process.

Budget monitoring by parties other than the implementing agency has proven to be an effective tool in ensuring that funds are used for their intended purpose.

First, funds misuse is immediately known and will more likely be acted upon. Second, knowing that there is periodic budget monitoring serves as a powerful deterrent for those contemplating malversation because of their fear of being caught and penalized.

New secretary

Two days ago, it was announced that Arthur Yap will be the new DA secretary. He will have a larger budget to work with in 2007.

The Alyansa appreciates his openness to small farmers and fisherfolk. This was evidenced during his scheduled monthly meetings with the Alyansa when he was still the DA secretary. It is hoped that this openness also be applied in the sensitive area of budget monitoring.

It would be a disaster if the increased 2007 DA budget the Alyansa fought so long and hard for is again misused because of a lack of budget monitoring.

With more money must come more accountability. Otherwise, the sins of the past will revisit us on a greater scale, thus giving further ammunition to those advocating violence to improve their plight.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8522112.)

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CEPALCO

CAGAYAN ELECTRIC POWER & LIGHT CO., INC.
33 Toribio Chavez St., Cagayan de Oro City

An Invitation for Expression of Intent to Bid

for the Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Commissioning, Financing and Operation of Electric Power Generation Facilities to Supply the Incremental Annual Electric Power Requirements of CEPALCO

Expression of Intent to Bid is hereby solicited from qualified and interested parties to plan, design, finance, construct, operate, own and maintain generating facilities, which shall supply the incremental annual electricity requirements of CEPALCO in Cagayan de Oro City, the Philippines; CEPALCO solicits its long-term supply from any type and size of generating technologies that can meet the varying volume of capacity and/or energy requirements of CEPALCO during this solicitation's planning period. Interested parties are required to send their written Expression of Intent, together with a brief description of their company, list of experiences in actual power plant project design, installation, commissioning and operations, as well as their company's statement of financial conditions and bank references, which shall be the bases for pre-qualification, to:

The Chairman
Power Supply Bidding Task Force (PSBTF)
Cagayan Electric Power & Light Co., Inc.
33 Toribio Chavez St., Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines
Tel. +63 8822 723254/725211; Fax: +63 8822 726019
Email: **cusumaoy@cepalco.com.ph**

The Expression of Intent to Bid together with all accompanying documents must be received by the CEPALCO PSBTF not later than **5:00pm (Philippine Time)** of **November 3, 2006**. The documents may be sent via facsimile or email to the above addresses provided that the exact hard copy thereof is received by CEPALCO PSBTF not later than five (5) days from receipt of such facsimile or email. An Invitation to Bid will be sent on **November 11, 2006** only to those who are pre-qualified to bid in the project; the Pre-Bid Conference shall be held in Cagayan de Oro City on **November 29, 2006**.

(SGD.) **CECILIO U. SUMAOY**
Chairman, Power Supply Bidding Task Force
CEPALCO

(PDI–Oct. 20, 2006)

PHILRICE PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1 The Philippine Rice Research Institute through the Government of the Philippines intends to apply the sum of **THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP3,225,000.00)** being the approved budget for the contract for Public Bidding 06-0003. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2 The Philippine Rice Research Institute now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **FABRICATION OF 750 PCS PLASTIC DRUM SEEDER (complete set)**. Delivery of Goods is required within three (3) months after receipt of the approved Purchase Order The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

4. Interested bidders may inspect Bidding Documents and obtain further information from PhilRice located at Brgy. Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija during office hours from 9:00 to 5:00 pm

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on October 18 to 24, 2006 during regular office hours from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP5,000.00). The method of payment will be in form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative

6 PhilRice will hold a pre-bid conference open to all interested parties on October 24, 2006, 2:00 pm at PhilRice, Training Rm 3. Laboratory Bldg., Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, N.E.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the BAC thru the Supply Office on or before 3rd of November 2006, 8:45 am. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check payable to PhilRice equivalent to one (1%) percent of the ABC or Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Pesos and 00/100 only (PhP32,250.00). Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on November 3, 2006, 9:00 am at Training Room 3. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend

9. PhilRice reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) HAZEL JANE M. ORGE
Vice Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI- Oct. 18 & 20, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Regional Office Luzon Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

FOR WAREHOUSE GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES NFA REGION III

The National Food Authority, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of P28,900,780.80 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of warehouse handling services for the movement of grain stocks and by-products in the warehouses, ricemills and other installations in Region III and to load/unload to/from trucks said commodities as follows:

PROVINCES	LOT NO	LOCATION OF WAREHOUSE	VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (IN BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
Aurora	I	GID-Baler	243,000	P 1,108,080.00
		Bartolome-Ma. Aurora		
		GID-Casiguran		
Bataan	II	GID 1 & 2-Balanga	394,350	1,743,027.00
		FLGC-Dinalupihan		
Bulacan	III	GID 1,2 & 3 – Balagtas	430,000	2,081,200.00
	IV	GID 1 & 2 – San Ildefonso	400,000	1,936,000.00
	V	GID 1 & 2 – Tikay	250,000	1,210,000.00
	VI	GID 1 & 2 – Sta. Rita	410,000	984,400.00
Nueva Ecija	VII	Whse 1-13 – Cab City	977,645	4,751,354.70
		Whse 1 & 2 – Gapan		
	VIII	Aliaga Whse-Aliaga	400,000	1,944,000.00
		GID-Bongabon		
		Guimba Whse 1-2		
		Muñoz RM/Dryer		
Pampanga	IX	Sindalan 1 and 2	691,740	3,265,012.80
	X	Del Rosario 1 and 2	415,000	1,958,800.00
Tarlac	XI	Aguso 1-3 & 5	540,750	2,811,900.00
	XII	GID 1-3	510,750	2,655,900.00
		Concepcion-Jefmin		
Zambales	XIII	GID and Mango	289,065	1,451,106.30
		Terminal-Iba		
		Castillejos Whse		
Total			5,952,300	P 28,500,780.30

The prospective bidder may bid in any or all lots upon payment of a non-refundable application/bidding fee and submission of a certified photocopy each of the documents stated below:

1) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2) Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Official Receipt

Schedule of application/bidding fees are as follows:

LOT NO	BIDDING FEE	LOT NO	BIDDING FEE
I	P 2,000.00	VIII	P 2,000.00
II	P 2,000.00	IX	P 3,000.00
III	P 2,500.00	X	P 2,000.00
IV	P 2,000.00	XI	P 2,500.00
V	P 2,000.00	XII	P 2,500.00
VI	P 2,000.00	XIII	P 2,000.00
VII	P 3,500.00		

The issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference, bidding proper and other schedule of activities are as follows:

PARTICULARS	DATE
1. Issuance of Application and Bidding Documents	October 13-25, 2006
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	October 26, 2006 (10.00AM)
3. Deadline of submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	November 7, 2006 (10:00 AM)
4. Bid Evaluation	November 8-15, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	November 16-23, 2006
6. Notice of Award	November 24, 2006

Eligibility criteria includes, among others that the value of the prospective bidder's largest single contract, adjusted to current prices using the wholesale consumer price index completed and similar to the contract to be bid, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

The bidding shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City with Telephone Nos. (044)-463-1167, (044)-463-1168 and (044)-463-1233.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
Asst. Regional Director/RBAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 13 & 20, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GOODS AND CONSULTING SERVICES

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites systems integrators (SI) to apply for eligibility and short listing and if found eligible and short listed, to bid for the hereunder Project.

Name of Project: eNTC Phase 2 - NTC automated Spectrum Management System (ASMS) Project, Database Development, Hardware/equipment (Database Server, Spectrum Management., System Server, Database Storage with Controller, UPS for servers), Software (Database Management System).

Brief Description: Spectrum Management is a core function of the NTC performed collaboratively by its various organizational units and consists of integrated processes and databases. ASMS is intended to be a web-based information system that will allow the submission of various applications including supporting documents, for frequency assignments, station licenses, equipment certification/type approval, radio equipment and Customer Premises Equipment, dealers and suppliers, payment of fees, application status monitoring and other related services to be done through the NTC Web portal with backend systems fully computer-aided. Specifically, the Project shall consist of the following:

Scope of Work:

1. **Provision of ASMS Software Package**
   a. This presupposes that the Information and Communication Technology Integrator offer a software package with seamlessly integrating functionalities such as: (1) Radio Frequency Planning and Allocations; (2) Radio Frequency Assignment, (3) Engineering/ Technical Analysis Tools (4) Radio Station Licensing; (5) Equipment Type Approval, (6) Radio Equipment Dealer/CPE Suppliers Licensing; (6) Radio Frequency Coordination and Notification; (8) Radio Enforcement (Inspection and Spectrum Surveillance; (9) Geographic Information System, (11) Revenue (license, Radio Spectrum fees and others) Management and Tracking, and (12) General Administration.
   b. Software Package should be inclusive of the necessary/appropriate training package
   *The Software Package must have at least two (2) reference sites in the ASEAN or Asia Pacific Region
2. **Customization and Systems Design and Development**
   This requires that the ASMS software package can be customized or modified and the additional modules can be designed and developed as necessary, by the ICT Integrator in order to meet the complete NTC functional requirements and system capabilities and/or features.
3. **Database Conversion and Build-up**
   This requires that the existing NTC electronic and manual files currently used in its spectrum management be converted and migrated into the ASMS database
4. **Provision of Hardware/Software and Services**
   This requires that the basis hardware and software requirements to be used in the customization, development, testing and implementation of the ASMS will be identified, delivered and installed and operationalized by the ICT integrators.
   *Inclusive of user technical training.

Contract Budget: P32,000,000.00

Funding: Unprogrammed Fund, FY 2005, General Appropriations Act, RA 9336.

Bid Processes and Schedules:

	Bid Activities	Date/Period
1.	Submission of LOI and Application for Eligibility	Oct. 20-Nov.3, 2006
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 20, 2006
3.	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	November 3, 2006
4.	Eligibility Requirements Evaluation Period	Nov. 6 – 9, 2006
5.	Posting of Short List	November 9, 2006
6.	Issuance of Bid Documents	November 10, 2006
7.	Pre Bid Conference	November 15, 2006
8.	BAC Open for Clarification Requests	Nov. 15-16, 2006
9.	Issuance of Bid Bulletin	November 17, 2006
10.	Submission of Bids	December 4, 2006
11.	Opening of Bids	December 4, 2006

Evaluation Method: Quality Based method

Subscription to Eligibility Forms: The eligibility screening form will be available and may be secured from the BAC Secretariat, upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI).

Subscription to Bid Documents: Bid Documents will be available only to short listed bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand pesos (P25,000.00) to the National Telecommunications Commission, Cashier.

Contact Information: Sophia Lynn B. Lumantod, BAC Secretariat, NTC Building, BIR Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

Waiver: The National Telecommunications Commission assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Posting Schedules: October 20, 2006 and October 27, 2006

(Sgd.) JAIME M. FORTES, JR.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Oct. 20 & 27, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
ECI TELECOM (PHILIPPINES) INC. 27/F Antel 2000 Valero St. Salcedo Village, Makati City	Yoon Sang Kim	Technical Support Engineer
HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LTD. The Enterprise Center, Tower I 6766 Ayala Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas Makati City	Mark Redmayne Pike Watkinson	President and Chief Executive Officer
TELEPHILIPPINES INCORPORATED 12/F Octagon Bldg., San Miguel Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jason Lawrence Quental	Network Operations Staff Consultant
SYKES ASIA, INC. 26F Robinsons Summit Bldg. Ayala Ave., Makati City	Chairunnisa Chairul	Indonesian Client Support
SYKES ASIA, INC. 26F Robinsons Summit Bldg. Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jeerapan Saksiri	Thai Client Support
PHILIPPINE EVERSTATE MINING CORP. 1630-A Benitez St., Malate, Manila	Qian Zhang	Coordinator
HYUK GLOBAL TRADING CORP. 10 Road 8-E UPS 5, Sucat Parañaque City	Hyuk Bo Kwon	President/ Chairman/ General Manager
MODAIR MANILA CO., LTD. INC. 3/F Emmanuel House Bldg. 115 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village Makati City	Shinichiro Otomo	Project Manager
FLUOR DANIEL INC.-PHILIPPINES 3/F Asian Star Bldg., Alabang Muntinlupa City	John Russell Jensen	Senior Design Engineer
MODAIR MANILA CO., LTD. INC. 3/F Emmanuel House Bldg. 115 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village Makati City	Masanobu Hashizume	Project Manager
SYKES ASIA, INC. 26F Robinsons Summit Bldg. Ayala Ave., Makati City	Nayeong Kim	Korean Client Support
V.I.P. GLOBAL CALL CENTER INC. Penthouse Columbian Bldg. 150 West Ave., Quezon City	Azhar Aslam Khan	Consultant
HYE RISE LEISURE CORPORATION Rm. 40-K Pearl of the Orient Tower Mabini St., Roxas Blvd., Malate Manila	Hye Ri Lim (w/o Yoo)	General Manager
ACCENTURE, INC. MSE Bldg., Ayala Ave. Makati City	Scott Cameron Fittock	Consultant
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, INC. 4505 Extra St., Fourth Estate Subd. Parañaque City	Yoo Seon Ahn	Fulltime Pre-School Teacher

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 20, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ROOFING MATERIALS FOR THE RE-ROOFING OF NFA WAREHOUSES IN DUMAGUETE CITY & GUIHULNGAN, NEGROS ORIENTAL, NFA REGION VII

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, through its *Corporate Budget for 2006* intends to apply the sum of **TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-THREE PESOS AND SIXTY-ONE CENTAVOS (Php 2,334,743.61)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments for the above stated project.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** now invites Bids from **Manufacturer and Supplier** for the Supply and Installation of Roofing Materials. Delivery and installation must be completed within FORTY FIVE (45) calendar days for the two warehouses upon receipt of Notice to Proceed.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bids submitted higher than the ABC shall be automatically disqualified during the Bid Opening.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect/purchase the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)* in cash.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bidding Documents	Oct. 23 to Nov. 3, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference *(NFA Training Center, 3rd Floor, Reg'l Office)*	Nov. 6, 2006 @ 9:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bids *(NFA Training Center, 3rd Floor, Reg'l Office)*	Nov. 20, 2006 @ 10:00 AM

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form:

Form	Minimum Amount % of Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC)
Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check	1% of ABC
GSIS Surety Bond marked "Callable on Demand"	2.5% of ABC

Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY** reserves the right to accept bid most advantageous to the government or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region VII
Raul B. Chong, BAC Chairman
Cebu Regional Office, Gov. M. Cuenco Avenue, Banilad, Cebu City
Telephone Numbers: (632) 232-1939 / (032) 233-2264;
Fax Numbers: (032) 233-6095
E-mail address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
website: www.nfacebu.net.ph/www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **RAUL B. CHONG**
RBAC Chairman/ARD

(PDI - Oct 20, 2006)

City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA invites PhilGEPS suppliers to apply for the following items.

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time		Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
1. Drugs and Medicines	P 5,961,142.10	October 27 2006 10:00 A.M.	November 08, 2006 10:00 A.M.	P 1,600.00
2. Office Supplies	P 2,056,848.60	October 27 2006 10:00 A.M.	November 08, 2006 10:00 A.M.	P 900.00
3. Job-Order: Labor and Materials: Thermoplastic Markings	P 2,999,988.00	October 27, 2006 10:00 A.M.	November 08, 2006 10:00 A.M.	P 1,000.00

The Bid documents shall be available at the City Mayor's Office, Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division, City Hall, Zamboanga City starting October 20 to November 08, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicate above.

The Pre-Bid conference shall be held at City Engineer's Office, Conference Hall, City Hall, Zamboanga City.

The Bidder shall drop and enclose the original of the Technical Proposal in one sealed envelope; whereas, the original of the Financial Proposal shall be enclosed in another sealed envelope. Both envelopes shall then be placed in another single envelope. In the bid box located at the abovementioned address

For more information, please call the Procurement, Acquisition and Awards Division at telephone no. (062) 992-7763.

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBOANGA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) DR. MARIO D. ARRIOLA
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 20 & 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Regional Office Luzon Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

FOR INTEGRATED CARGO HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA REGION III

The National Food Authority, NFA Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of P41,589,980.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of Integrated Cargo Handling Services at Subic Port for the year 2007. The volume to be discharged estimated at 115,000 MT of NFA imported grains, more or less. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The scope of services to be bid for integrated services at Subic Port include Arrastre, Stevedoring, Wharfage, Hustling, Truckscaling, Opening/Closing of Hatches, Stand-By Charges, Import Entry documentation / Gate Pass, and other Port Services.

The application for eligibility and pertinent bidding documents can be secured from NFA CLRO, Cabanatuan City, Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of P5,000.00 and submission of certified xerox copy each of the following documents:

1) DTI business name registration, CDA Registration and/or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate;
2) Updated Mayor's Permit and Official Receipt;
3) Current registration certificate as cargo handler/Permit To Operate (PTO) issued by SBMA;
4) Current Certificate of good standing with SBMA;
5) Certification of at least three (3) years experience in grains (in bags) cargo handling / unloading (pierside) for the past three (3) years issued by PPA or SBMA as principal contractor.

The bidding of Integrated Services shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

	PARTICULARS	DATE	TIME
1.	Issuance of Bid Application and Bid Documents	October 16-27, 2006 Regular Working Days	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
2.	Pre-Bidding Conference	October 30, 2006	2:00 p.m.
3.	Submission and Opening of Bids	November 09, 2006	10:00 a.m.

The bidding of Integrated Cargo Handling Services at Subic Port shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or Secretariat at NFA-CLRO, Cabanatuan City with Telephone Nos. (044)-463-1167, (044)-463-1168 and (044)-463-1233.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
RBAC Chairman / Asst. Regional Director

(PDI - October 13 & 20 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region IV, Balagtas, Batangas City
Tel No. 043-7233325/043-4021878
Fax No. 043-7230449/043-4020189
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph
E-mail Address: nfaro4 rbac@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**, Regional Office IV, with its official address at Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sack manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of brand new white polypropylene empty sack (MTS) for Iron Fortified Rice as indicated below:

EMPTY SACK TYPE	QUANTITY (PIECES)	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	DELIVERY POINT
Rice (PPMG50)	217,227	P2,389,500.00	NFA Whse, Balagtas, Batangas City

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 20 - Nov. 06, 2006 *(excl. Sat., Sun. & Holidays)*
2. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 09, 2006 at 10:00 AM
3. Submission and Opening of Bids	Nov. 23, 2006 at 10:00 AM
4. Bid Evaluation	Nov. 27 - Dec. 11, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	Dec. 12-26, 2006
6. Notice of Award	January 08, 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,500.00 to the National Food Authority's Cashier

The mode of payment shall be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGION IV** reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders, whatsoever.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **TOMAS R. ESCAREZ**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 20 & 26, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel Nos 522-0000, 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
1 Lot Supply, Delivery and Installation of 2 Units Automatic Low Voltage Capacitor Banks Rated 1200K VAR, 480V, 60Hz, 3-Phase in NEMA 1 Free Standing Vertical Panels Powder Coated Finish Inclusive of Applicable Labor and Materials	P2,400,000.00	October 26, 2006 2:00 PM	November 8, 2006 1:00 PM	P 1,200.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting October 13, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes placed in single outer envelope and sealed accordingly in the bid box located at the abovementioned address

For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI–Oct. 13 & 20, 2006)

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- **Chinese Teacher**
- **Secretary**
- *must be a graduate of B.S. Computer Secretarial*

Apply personally at:
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at #42 Aguirre Ave. BF Homes Parañaque City
Tel. #: (02) 809-6875

Bring Transcript of Records, Resumé with cover letter, SSS and TIN number and I.D. picture.

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Join our consultation session on October 21, 28 & 29 @ 1pm, Jasmine function room, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

Fee is P600 inclusive of snakes.

For seat reservation text your name @0917-7387311 or 0917-7387338

We don't simply assist... We change lives.

Novena to Saint Claire

Ask St. Claire for 3 favors: 1 business, 2 impossible, Say 8 Hail Marys for 9 days with lighted candles. Pray whether you believe it or not. Publish on the 9th day. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified today and every day. Request will be granted no matter how impossible it seems. St. Claire, St. Jude, St. Therese, Infant of Prague, St. Ann, St. Joseph, Pray for us.

ATTENTION: Residents of Metro Manila

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is in urgent need of the following Manpower:

- **CIVIL ENGINEER**
  Male, 25-35 years old
  Computer Skill (MS Word, MS Office, Excel & Auto CAD)
  Fluent in English (Oral & Written)
  Must be Licensed Civil Engineer

For Inquiry, Please look for: Mr. Maeda/Ms. Maribel at 3F-A, First Life Center, 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City w/ Tel No.: (02) 892-2809/817-1870/816-3560

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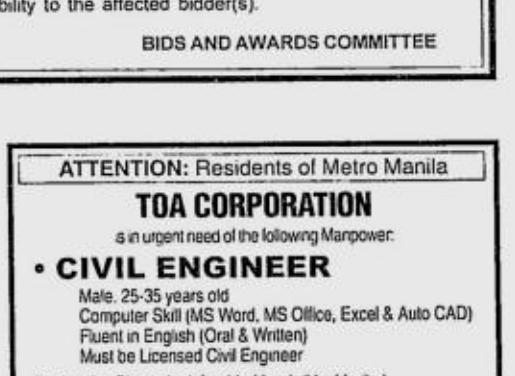

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
300 Units SMS Power Resetting Device	P11,550,000.00	November 9, 2006 2:00 PM	November 22, 2006 1:00 PM	P 5,800.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting October 20, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila.

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For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

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(PDI - Oct. 20 & 27, 2006) BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

TOMAS OLIVER DEL CASTILLO, JR.

of Vigan, Ilocos Sur

U.P. Law Class of 1962
PM, Hiram Lodge No. 88

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 18, 2006.

His wife **Ruby Castro**, children and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Please omit flowers. Donations to Retrouvaille Manila will be most appreciated.

Our Dearly Beloved

Pacita David Tapiador

(January 25, 1911 - October 15, 2006)

Peacefully joined our Lord
on October 22, 2006 at the age of 95.

Her loving children **Manueala, Jesus** and **Zenaida**; grandchildren and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Her body lies in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 22, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija.

The Provincial Superior and Members
of the Society of St. Paul
and The Javellana Family
announce the peaceful return of

REV. FR. JOSEFINO J. JAVELLANA, SSP

to his Divine Creator
on Wednesday, October 18, 2006.

His body lies in state from October 19 to 23, 2006 at the Sanctuary of St. Paul, the Apostle, 7708 St. Paul Rd., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

Let us accompany **Father JJ** with our prayer and affection.

"I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."
Psalm 34:4

ATTY. GUIBARDO VILLAREAL NAVARRA

of Mambusao, Capiz

Peacefully joined the Lord on
October 12, 2006 at the age of 87.

Loving husband of **Libertad (Pangga) Kapunan-Navarra**; caring father of **Manny & Aurelia Prieto; Richard & Aurora Millares; Toto Vito & Ann; Felix & Teedum Hernandez, Doods** and **Guibardo Jr.**; doting grandfather of **Mookie & Mik; Viann & Vinna**.

We request the pious readers to join them in prayer for his eternal peace and happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Mambusao, Capiz.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 22, 2006 at the Mambusao Catholic Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

RAMON DE JESUS GODINEZ, SR.

Husband of the late **Lydia O. Godinez**
of 114 Margie Moran St.,
BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 18, 2006 at the age of 84.

His loving children **Charito** & **Bobby, Mila** & **Gerry, Sonny, Tessie** & **Nacho, Cholo** & **Susan, Lilit** & **Vincent, Rico, Noel** & **Elma, Francis** & **Angie**; grandchildren, brothers & sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Lumbang Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 22, 2006 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Anawim Chapel, Marcus Aurelius St., Italia 500 BF Resort, Las Piñas City.

I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith
(2 Timothy 4)

CLASSIFIEDS

PCP midyear confab set Oct. 18 to 20

THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS Western Visayas-Panay Chapter hosted the 18th PCP Midyear Convention on Oct. 18-20 at Punta Villa, Iloilo City. With "Medical Practice: Under Siege?" as its theme, the convention had eight scientific sessions and three plenary sessions.

The scientific sessions and their speakers were: "The Agony of D'Feet "(Leg Ulcers) – Dr. Patricio Palmes, "Billi It or Not (Probiotics)" – Dr. Ricardo Pascasio, Jr.; "Hope or Hype: What's Your Gut Filling "(Fad Diets) – Dr. Aretha Ann Gacutan-Liwag; "Any Cox for Alarm?" (Cox Future) – Dr. Oscar Cabahug; "Killing Me Softly: Slipping with the Enemy" (Cancer of Unknown Primary) – Dr. Gracieux Fernando; "Doctor, Doctor ay ang Sick "(The Wounded Healer) – Dr. Doris Mendoza; Fats and Figures: The Weight of Evidence" (Obesity: Under-recognized Epidemic) – Dr. Rosa Allen-Sy; and "Unclean and Present Danger" (Environmental Toxins) – Dr. Lynn Panganiban.

The plenary sessions and their speakers were: "Staying Out of Death's Door: Die Another Day! (Prophylaxis in PTE: Guidelines and Updates) – Dr. Teresita de Guia; "Fun-tak-tic Experience" (Work-Life Balance) – Dr. Violeta Villaroman-Bautista; and "Pinoy Big Brother" (Non-Surgical Dermatological Treatment of the Aging Filipino Face) – Dr. Sylvia Jamora-Jacinto.

According to PCP president Dr. Rene I. Juaneza, Dr. Caroline G. Arroyo, president, PCP-Western Visayas Chapter, and Dr. Ludovico L. Jurao, Jr., over-all chairperson, 18th PCP Midyear Convention, the keynote speaker was Dr. Josette T. Biyo, an internationally acclaimed scientist and teacher who was the Grand Winner in the 2002 Intel Excellence in Teaching Award, besting close to a hundred participants worldwide in the competition held at Louisville, Kentucky, U.S. As part of the award, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln laboratory (USA) named a minor planet, "Planet Biyo" in her honor.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of **KYUDENKO – NEEDS CREATOR IT CORPORATION** shortening the term of its existence to up to September 4, 2006, thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date have been approved by a majority of its Board of Directors and by two-thirds (2/3) of the stockholders of said corporation.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present same to its Head Office at the 6th Floor, Filipino Building, 135 dela Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City or Mr. Koichi Maki, Treasurer, No. 13 Love Street, Remanville Executive Village, Don Bosco, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) **GREGORIO M. BATILLER, JR.**
Corporate Secretary
(PDI–Oct. 6, 13 & 20, 2006)

More Classified Ads:

National Food Authority B4
AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System ... B4
National Telecommunications Commission B5
PhilRice Nueva Ecija B5
Cagayan Electric Power & Light Co. Inc. B5

BUSINESS

Malampaya task force up

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS SET TO form a task force that will come up with the bidding rules for the Camago-Malampaya oil rim development contract, in the hope that the contract can be awarded by the end of the year.

In an interview on the sidelines of yesterday's Philippine Business Conference, Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) president and chief executive Eduardo Manalac said the task force would be composed of members of the PNOC and PNOC Exploration Corp. (PNOC-EC) board, as well as management and technical people from PNOC-EC.

He said once the group finalizes the bidding rules and procedures for the Malampaya oil rim development contract, a transparent bidding process would be held to determine PNOC's partner for the project.

"The timeline is a little ambitious, as we are just starting with the formulation of the bid rules and procedures. But we are hoping to award the contract before the end of the year," he said.

With the selection process back to square one, he said the target for drawing first oil from the Malampaya reserves would also be pushed back from the original target of end-2007 to the first half of 2008.

Zesto eyes IPO in HK

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ZESTO CORP., THE PHILIPPINES' leading ready-to-drink juice maker, is keen on an initial public offering in Hong Kong or Singapore, said company chair and chief executive officer Alfredo Yao.

Yao said on the sidelines of the Philippine Business Conference at the Manila Hotel yesterday that the time was right to sell shares to investors abroad as the company was expanding into China and Indonesia.

"The market here is quite small, We have started one (beverage manufacturing) plant in China and maybe Indonesia, so maybe that's the time we may get listed on Hong Kong or Singapore," Yao said.

Yao said Zesto invested about P3 billion in its China plant.

The China plant, which will open this year, will manufacture ready-to-drink juices, bottled tea and RC Cola soft drinks.

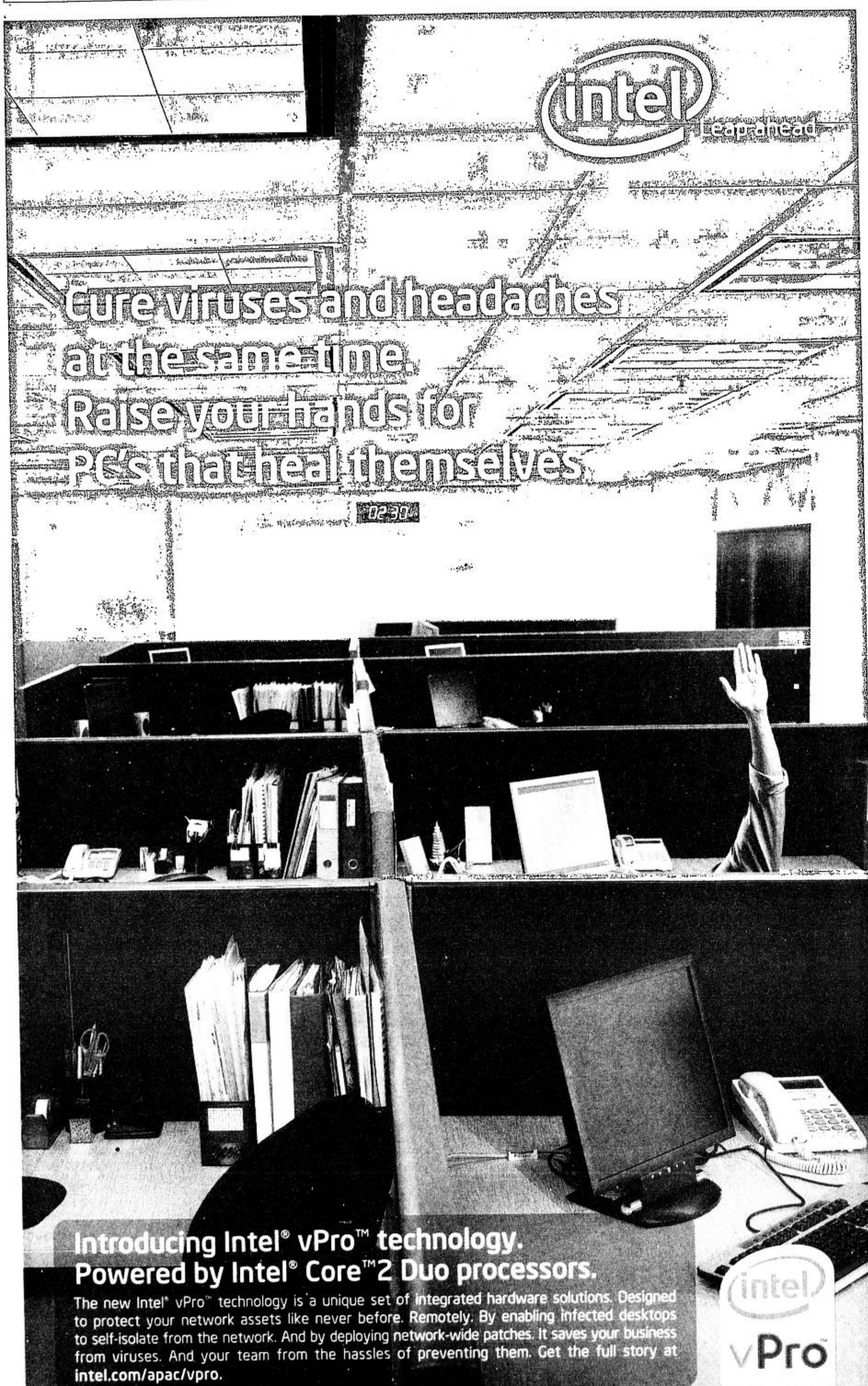
In Indonesia, Zesto is discussing a possible partnership with Sosro, that country's biggest tea maker, although Yao declined to disclose the terms of the ongoing discussions.

Zesto, which bought into RC Cola in 2004, operates three soft drinks producing plants for the RC Cola brand in Antipolo, Quezon City and Canlubang.

It also has beverage plants in Bulacan, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro.

Zesto, which accounts for 90 percent of the ready-to-drink fruit juice market in the country, also sells instant noodles, milk, table sauces, bottled tea under the "One" brand, purees and carbonated drinks.

It was founded in May 1981.



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Money in the Bank

By Zennon Kapron, Intel Asia Pacific Financial Services Vertical Industry Manager

Financial services companies are demanding smaller, faster, and smarter solutions. They are discovering that the same value points are addressed using new desktop technologies, without the infrastructure restrictions or inflexible structures that older, terminal based systems impose. Better performance, better manageability and more security all help front-office staff perform their jobs - and deliver the responsiveness demanded by today's banking customers.

There has been a shift towards a more complete customer experience and convenience. In many banks, tellers are required to perform cross-selling activity at the window, without relying on a separate set of advisors for every sales opportunity. This new approach relies on staff being able to quickly access and analyze customer information. A teller needs a single source of truth when it comes to information on the customer's position and their financial lifecycle.

However, older terminals at many banks are unable to present a single window into customer data. A text-based terminal cannot provide prompts, flag new special offers to the teller, or suggest other products that fit the customer's profile.

A new breed of high performance PCs can now help tellers be more proactive. They can run a host of specifically-tailored marketing applications-ideal for on-the-spot up-selling or cross selling opportunities at the first point of customer contact.

Financial advisors in bank branches also benefit from highly specific yet compute-intensive applications similar to those used at capital markets firms. Financial advisors can now use these applications to increase customer visibility, improve cross-selling rates and increase wallet share.

High-performance desktop PCs also offer access to real-time customer views and account value positions. Using connected PCs, immediate access to information that can help bank staff seize short-term market opportunities and make best-case recommendations to their clients.

Financial services firms require tremendous amounts of computing resource to handle all transactions, local and international, demanded by a range of customers. The ability of high-power PCs to link into existing global networks provides a new range of flexibility and responsiveness, particularly for Internet banking and account management, which need constant customization to stay fresh. These channels demand the highest levels of security; a need that only technology can fulfill in today's complex business environments.

Customer responsiveness goes beyond front-end applications. Highly scalable infrastructures are required to efficiently connect the customer to the global financial industry. If a system can display multiple product offerings at the branch position, but cannot quickly access the data and decision support it needs, business opportunities vanish and customer satisfaction suffers.

Dual-core processor-based desktop PC's employ advanced management and security techniques that create an unprecedented combination of agility and capability. With this new breed of powerful desktops, staff can enjoy a responsive experience as they multitask across multiple demanding applications while bank security and management tasks continue to run in the background.

Secured transactions amounting to million of dollars and exposing confidential client data are transacted on a daily basis. Using new hardware platforms, software experts have collaborated with hardware R&D teams to solve security issues posed by desktop machines. Increased user access to the compute kernel requires extra vigilance.

Now, critical security applications can run in the background in a virtual partition while users are working on compute-intensive tasks within the standard operating system (OS) environment. This approach keeps vital security processes isolated from potential OS security compromises and ensures they are isolated from threats such as viral emails. Updates and security management can even be managed while the machine is powered down for maximum convenience and firewalled safety.

IT managers have already welcomed this new approach to security. It brings remote management techniques to the desktop that previously only existed on servers.

The New Solution

The new solution bringing relief to the financial services industry's highly varied demands are PCs with Intel® vPro™ technology. Provided on a coherent, standardized system, it includes manageability and proactive security features with the second-generation of Intel® Active Management Technology (Intel® AMT) built into the chipset, and Intel® Virtualization Technology (Intel® VT). Intel® VT is integrated into the new dual-core Intel® Core™2 Duo processor featured on every PC with Intel vPro technology.

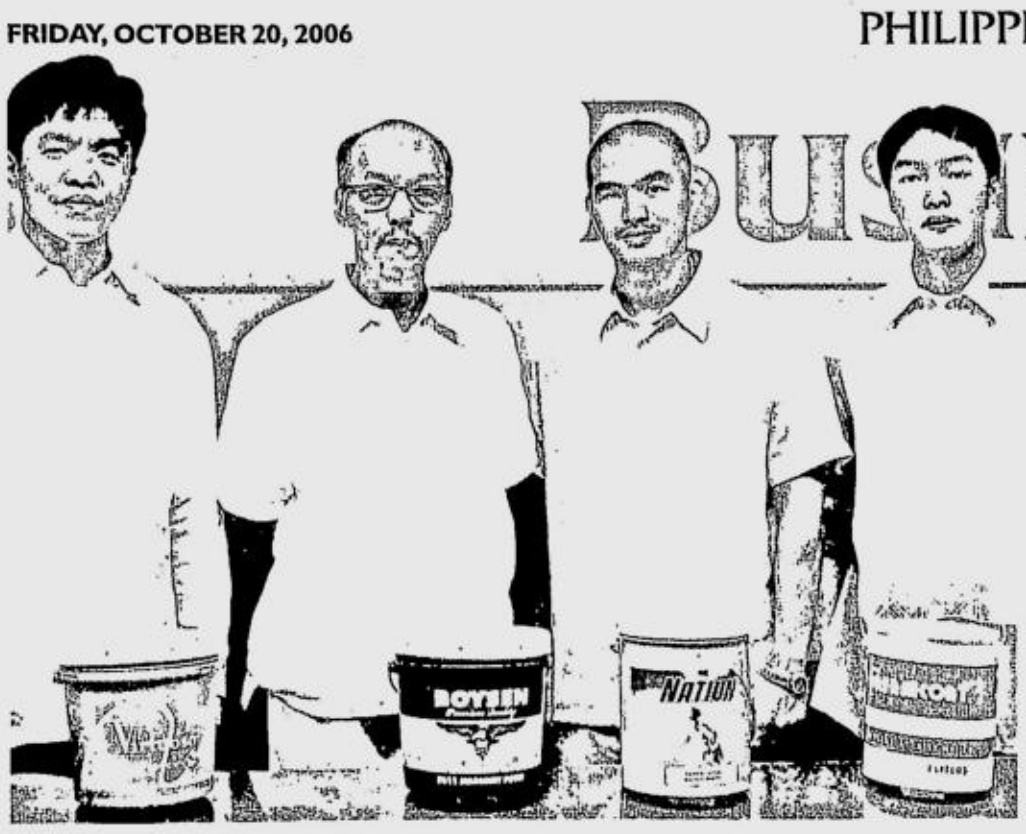
These hardware innovations, when combined with industry software solutions, offer unprecedented manageability, security, and energy efficient performance together with reduced operating costs and increased user-level functionality. Intel AMT can even manage, inventory, diagnose, and repair PC's when they are turned off or experience OS or hard drive interruptions.

ADVT.

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino



JOHNSON Ongking, Willy Ong, Boysen operations director Timothy Uyecio, and IT manager Justin Ongsue.

More than just tints and hues

Country's oldest paint company hopes to color more countries

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE NEXT TIME YOU PICK up a can or container of imported paint over a local one, take a step back and consider this: The country's largest paint

MORE/ B2-2

St. Luke's gears for $40-B global medical tourism industry

ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER takes one step closer to cornering a big chunk of the global medical tourism market after it was recognized by the Department of Health.

The DOH conferred the Gintong Sigla (Golden Enthusiasm) Seal of Approval to St. Luke's, making St. Luke's the only full medical tourism partner of DOH to date among the country's healthcare facilities participating in the Philippine Medical Tourism Program (PMTP).

Medical tourism

With the theme "Philippine Islands of Wellness," the PMTP is a comprehensive multi-sectoral program aimed at making the country become the new hub of wellness and medical care in Asia.

To merit the Gintong Sigla Seal of Approval and become a full medical tourism partner, a healthcare facility must be accredited by the Philippine Council on Accreditation of Health Organizations (PCAHO) and the prestigious Joint Commission International (JCI), a subsidiary of the Joint Council on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

JCI and JCAHO are recognized worldwide for setting high levels of quality standards in the medical and healthcare professions.

St. Luke's is the first and only JCI-accredited healthcare facility in the Philippines and the second of 24 in Asia.

"St. Luke's is the country's most technologically advanced hospital," says Jose G. Ledesma, president and CEO of St. Luke's Medical Center.

"We are known for our aggressive acquisition of the latest and most advanced medical equipment, making St. Luke's better equipped than 95 percent of hospitals in the United States," he adds

Centers of excellence

St. Luke's Centers of Excellence offer many procedures in demand among medical tourists. It has established expertise in heart surgery, coronary angioplasty and stenting, comprehensive executive health assessment, spine surgery, cancer diagnosis and therapy and hip and knee replacement, to name a few.

"St. Luke's also has a strong clinical research program that supports its medical expertise," says Dr. Joven R. Cuanang, senior vice president for medical affairs. "St. Luke's is the first and currently the only institution in the country that maintains fully operational disease databanks and disease study groups."

Advanced research

Databank-based researches are unique because the problems which researchers seek to resolve are identified in the course of monitoring data from disease registries and databanks.

These studies aim to find solutions to existing healthcare problems in the institution itself. Furthermore, the databank provides a continuing source of research ideas over time that can be developed into highly relevant clinical researches.

In collaboration with St. Luke's Research and Biotechnology Division, the Heart Institute, the International Institute for Neurosciences and the Institute of Digestive Diseases monitor quality of healthcare outcomes through the Cardiovascular Disease Information System Group, Stroke Data Bank Study Group and Liver Diseases Study Group.

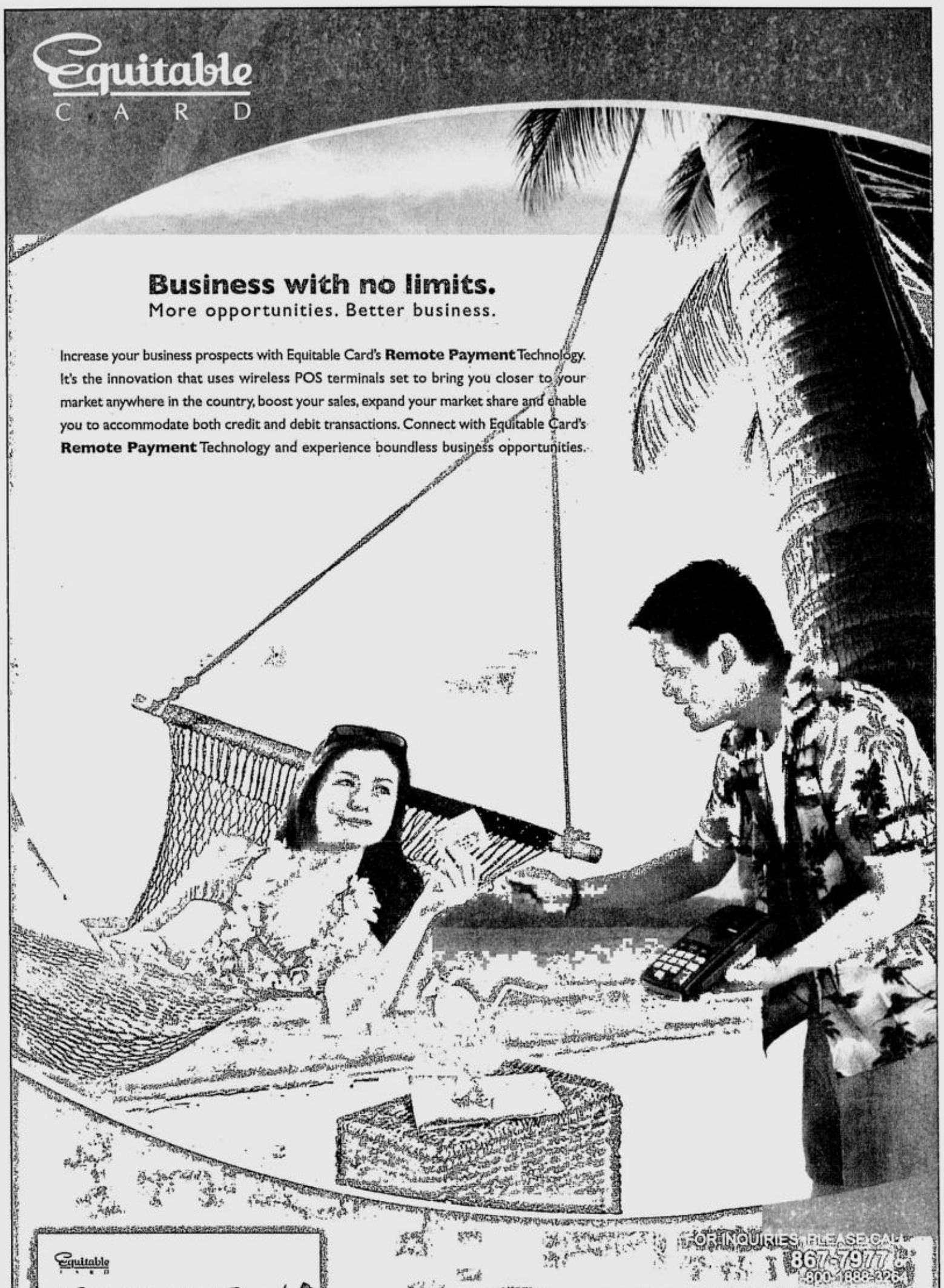
More patients

St. Luke's has been receiving a growing number of patients from Asia, Europe and the United States since the 1980s.

"Guests from abroad and their family can rely on the friendly and knowledgeable staff of our International Patient Care Center to make their stay at St. Luke's a most fruitful and pleasant one," Cuanang says.

St. Luke's International Patient Care Center is the country's first full-service hospital department that provides patients with hotel-like services.

These include travel planning, medical evacuation and repatriation, airport transfers, interpreters and secretarial service, and even personal concierge.



Clark: Through ashfall and tax incentives

By Antonio P. Bonilla and Joel L. Tan-Torres
SGV & Co.

THE SAGA OF CLARK IS A CONTINUING STORY of reinvention as a creative economic response to the challenges posed by adverse events.

A history of challenges and responses

Baby boomers remember Clark Field, Pampanga when it was a military base beyond the taxing jurisdiction of the Philippines. The base spawned an economy outside its perimeters that was characterized by active trade in PX goods, and operation of honky-tonk bars and girlie joints that, for the most part, probably eluded the burden of Philippine taxation.

TAX-FILES

When the Pinatubo eruption in July 1991 led to the withdrawal of the US from its military base, some saw the end of an era in that part of the country and the demise of the good old free-wheeling, consumption-driven economy in which Clark flourished.

Clark needed to reinvent itself. On Mar. 13, 1992, Republic Act No. 7227 was enacted to mandate the conversion of areas covered by the former military US bases and facilities into special economic zones (SEZ or ecozone). Government hoped that the mandate of RA 7227 would encourage investors to locate in Clark as SEZ enterprises and to create new business and employment opportunities.

The new Clark was beginning to fulfill the hopes for a reinvented, investment-driven economy when another Pinatubo-like eruption shook its very economic foundations. This time the eruption took the shape of a unanimous en banc Supreme Court decision stripping Clark SEZ enterprises of the fiscal incentives provided by RA 7227. (Coconut Oil Refiners Association, Inc., et al. v. Hon. Ruben Torres, et al.; GR No. 132527; dated July 29, 2005). In brief, the Court held that extending the tax provisions of RA 7227 to Clark was declared to have no legal basis.

Specifically, while Section 12 of RA 7227 expressly granted fiscal incentives for Subic, the provision merely authorized the President, upon recommendation of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), to create special economic zones in other communities, including Clark. Consequently, on Apr. 3, 1993, then President Fidel Ramos issued Executive Order No. 80 providing, among others, for Clark's conversion into a SEZ. In addition, the EO declared that Clark shall enjoy the same fiscal incentives granted to Subic under RA 7227.

In its July decision, the Supreme Court ruled that when EO 80 granted fiscal incentives to Clark SEZ enterprises, it was tantamount to executive lawmaking, which is prohibited under the Constitution.

Under the constitutional principle of separation of powers among the three major branches of government, the taxing power, which includes the granting of fiscal incentives, is lawmaking and as such, is the sole prerogative of the legislature, not the executive branch.

Clark Ecozone, which has nearly 400 enterprises with about 37,000 employees generating an estimate of nearly $1 billion worth of exports annually, faced an uncertain future and the government had to quickly address the situation. Thus, upon recommendation of the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA), Presidential Proclamation No. 1035, dated Mar. 10, 2006, was issued declaring Clark as a PEZA SEZ instead.

As a prelude to the proclamation, the PEZA Board issued a resolution making Clark Development Corporation (CDC), the government entity originally tasked to administer the economic zone, a PEZA developer.

Initially, the CDC has been required to submit a list of existing export-oriented enterprises in the zone which shall be considered registered with PEZA as a result of the presidential proclamation, but subject to subsequent validation by the PEZA. Thereafter, all future enterprises should register directly with PEZA.

Comparing tax incentives

Under the voided EO 80, Clark was a special economic zone. It was a separate customs territory or a separate taxing jurisdiction vis-à-vis the rest of the Philippine economy. Hence, like Subic SEZ enterprises, Clark's own registered enterprises were subject only to the 5 percent income tax on gross income earned from their registered activities. This special gross income tax was in lieu of all national and local taxes. Furthermore, in Section 12 (c) of RA 7227, any conflicts between national and local laws with the tax exemption privileges of the zone were to be resolved in favor of the latter.

Clark SEZ enterprises were exempt from national taxes such as customs and import duties and national internal revenue taxes such as the VAT, excise and percentage taxes on their importation of raw materials and equipment. Likewise, they were exempt from internal revenue taxes on their sales of goods and services within the SEZ.

With its new status as a PEZA SEZ, Clark remains a separate customs territory or a separate taxing jurisdiction from the rest of the Philippine economy. (Section 8, RA 7916)

Moreover, Clark SEZ enterprises are still entitled to the special 5 percent tax regime in lieu of all national and local taxes, as they were before. (Section 24, RA 7916) Consequently, they remain exempt from national and internal revenue taxes.

There is also an additional incentive expressly provided in Section 42 of RA 7916 that is not present in the provisions of RA 7227. This is the additional deduction equivalent to 50 percent of the value of training expenses incurred by the registered enterprise in developing skilled or unskilled labor, or for managerial development programs which can be deducted from the national government's 3 percent share in the special 5 percent income tax on gross income earned imposed on the registered enterprise.

What remains to be done

Since EO 80 has been declared null and void by the Supreme Court, all national and local taxes that would have been collected without such incentives will now have to be assessed on Clark SEZ enterprises from the time they commenced operations until the time when Proclamation No. 1035 was issued.

These back taxes have been estimated to amount to be more than P300 million. In the meantime, both the BIR and local government have refrained from issuing any tax deficiency assessments against the locators. The House of Representatives is now reviewing House Bill No. 4900, which seeks to provide tax amnesty for locators affected by the SC decision for all their national and local tax as well as customs duty liabilities, including the corresponding penalties, fines and interest thereon, for the period prior to Proclamation No. 1035. If the bill becomes law, then a chapter in the saga of Clark shall be completed and a new one can begin.

A NUMBER of credit card holders purchase big screen TVs and other high-ticket gadgets on terms without interest.

Affluent don't want to bother with choices

Privilege is not having to think, study says

FOCUSED ON GAINING A "HIGHER share of the wallet" of affluent consumers, American Express is set on growing its business by offering its Peso Platinum Card members what they would consider the most appealing deals and perks. From now up to the end of the year, cardmembers can avail of a zero-percent installment arrangement with luxury merchants.

Grace D. Limjap, marketing head of the Peso Platinum Card, explained that in the competitive credit card industry of the Philippines, American Express places a high priority on retaining clients and in addition, gaining referrals from them, by offering services and promotions that set new standards in the industry. "We focus on understanding our best customers, their needs and preferences."

The zero-percent Platinum Installment Payment Plan allows members to purchase jewelry and accessories, fashion items, gadgets and other items from a number of merchants including Cartier, Hans Brumann, Avant and the Apple Center on terms ranging from three to 12 months. Lynden Catapang, marketing executive for card usage, explained that the current promotion builds on the success of similar campaigns such as a tie-up with a high-end appliance and gadgets store that saw a number of cardmembers purchasing big screen TVs and other high-ticket gadgets on terms without interest.

Contrary to popular perception, the affluent enjoy bargains such as zero-percent installment deals, complimentary dishes from certain restaurants and free hotel stays. In addition, they value companies and providers that "free them from the complexity of choices" by making decisions and selections for them. Both findings are based on a study of affluent consumers throughout the region, an initiative by American Express, which has over a century of catering to affluent consumers.

Limjap added that the application of one finding—"Privilege is not having to think"—is very much appreciated by buyers of luxury goods. "They prefer merchants who offer them what they want even before they ask for these items."

She explained that the tie-up with 24 luxury merchants offering items on terms with no interest is one such initiative. It is intended "to make Christmas shopping a more enjoyable experience for members." Participating merchants include YSL, Tod's, St. John, Marks and Spencer, Laurel, Hugo Boss, Escada Sport, Escada, Charriol, Burberry, Bottega Veneta, Bally, Cartier, Hans Bruman, Jewelmer, Montblanc, Silver Vault, Tiffany, Prestige Cars BMW, Apple Center, Blims, Abenson, Avant and Automatic Center.

New stops at Westgate Center Alabang

THE YEAR 2006 IS TURNING INTO an interesting one for Westgate Alabang, the upscale development project of Filinvest Alabang Inc. Considered to be a prime destination in the south, Westgate has attracted young professionals and families searching for the perfect marriage between a commercial and lifestyle center.

For the second half of 2006, Westgate announces the opening of several new and exciting establishments.

RMSM Car Care Services opened last month. It provides a wide selection of car accessories and professional auto repair services. Dive enthusiasts will get a pleasant surprise at the Pacifica Dive Shop, with its vast collection of diving equipment, diving and swimming ware and accessories.

October sees the opening of Golf Bay Central, an all service golf retail center, while Sushi-Ya Japanese restaurant opens its doors to the Westgate regular in November.

Finally, Melo's Steakhouse will give the south a taste of real steak come December.

Westgate Alabang is at the Commerce Avenue of Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

For inquiries, please visit westgate@filinvest.com or call (632) 8503516.

More than just colors and hues

From page B2-1

manufacturer, and the 50th in the world, says the ratio of premium paint being used in the Philippines is higher than in Southeast Asia.

This means the local paint you buy is of better quality (with a lower price tag) than some of the imported ones.

The Pacific Paint (Boysen) Phils. Inc. is 53 years old and serves 70 percent of the Philippine paint market. The firm has painted thousands of buildings and houses in its history and hopes to continue doing so in the next half a century.

Vicente Ong Sue had the responsibility of taking care of his 11 siblings at a young age. His father was among those who sought a better life outside of China in the 1940s (when the Communist took over) and he landed in the Philippines. But he would go back and forth between China and Manila as his family remained in China. Vicente eventually joined his father in one of his trips. Over the years, Vicente's other siblings came. To support the family, Vicente managed to set up a hardware shop, the Pacific Hardware, in Avenida with brother Jimmy Ongking, then only 17.

Vicente could have expanded the hardware business but he saw an opportunity in paint making.

That was in 1953. Today, the Pacific Paint is the largest paint maker in the country and the 50th largest in the world in terms of volume. Interestingly the Pacific Hardware still stands on the same place in Avenida (now Rizal Avenue).

Pacific Paint (Boysen) started as a repacker of paints and lacquer in 1953. The company steadily grew and five years later, it expanded its operations and carried Nation, which targeted the lower-end of the paint market.

After World War II, the local coatings industry was dominated by imported paint brands. Then called Pacific Paint & Oil Manufacturing Inc. (PPOMI), it introduced Boysen Paints from the US in the Philippines in 1960.

Although the firm remains a family-owned one, the members of the second generation who are involved in the business all experienced working outside the family business. And all voluntarily joined the family corporation without being required to do so.

Johnson Ongking, son of Jimmy and vice president of Boysen, sat down with the INQUIRER recently to talk about the company's early beginnings, where it is going.

Ongking, like many of his cousins, is a product of Western education. He studied in Canada and then worked in different countries as an investment banker including Poland where he spent one year of his undergraduate studies.

"It is liberating. You can do so much," he says of working in a family-owned firm. He says working in a different company, "one does not have freedom."

Cousin Willy Ong, the son of Vicente, is the president of Boysen and Johnson says it is Willy who is largely responsible for the growth of Pacific Paint. Willy took over the company in 1978. By 1988, he had built a factory in Bicutan (where SM Bicutan now stands). There the firm experienced growth after being an almost backyard operation for 30 years.

A fire, however, gutted the factory and they moved to Trece Martires in Cavite in 2000.

Over the years Pacific Paint saw that Filipinos do not paint their houses and rooms as often as people from other countries. They decided to pursue the premium paint route to provide consumers with longer-lasting protection for their houses but at an affordable rate.

"The value of a can of paint is determined by its cost per square meter and cost per square meter per year, not the price per gallon. Our company's mission is to make Boysen the best value in premium quality paint, and we consider it a big achievement of our company that 70 percent of Filipinos are able to enjoy the benefits of premium paint because they use Boysen, whereas in most countries the premium paint segment is usually smaller than those of cheaper paint. This is completely unexpected for a country with our economic conditions," Ongking explains.

Ongking adds that "the reasons why we are able to sell premium quality paint at such prices is the economies of scale we have achieved—the large volumes we produce allow us to source raw materials more economically and our modern plants allow us to produce paint more efficiently. The fact that we have our own resin subsidiaries is also a big factor in helping us generate savings that we can then pass on to the Filipino consumers.

ONGKING and Ong Sue

Boysen is slowly tapping the export market but on a selective basis. It sells $2 million worth of paints to the Micronesia Islands.

In the Philippines, the bulk or some 98 percent of paint products are sold via the hardware stores.

But most paint companies, including Boysen, have set up mixing stations in department stores or "big boxes" like ACE Hardware, True Value, Wilcon.

"I think over the years the number of colors to choose from has always been plentiful but what new technology allows is the ability to get custom colors done in the store quickly while you wait in our Mix & Match tinting stations. Before, most homeowners would have to buy small cans of colorants and ask a painter to tint the paint to the color they wanted. Today they can just go to one of our Mix & Match stations, choose the color they want, and bring home paint of the mixed color already," says Ongking.

Like many products, paint has evolved from simple colors and texture to a variety of hues and values and feel that one can no longer tell whether a wall has paint, wallpaper or something else.

Boysen recently introduced the Virtuoso Silk Touch, the first paint to incorporate DuPont's Teflon surface protector. Virtuoso Silk Touch is the first product to combine a flat finish with the cleanability of a glossy paint.

Over the years, the company has expanded into other paint products.

"For our company, the first milestone after our establishment in 1953 would probably be the start of operations in our Bicutan factory in 1988. At that time, it was the largest paint manufacturing facility in Southeast Asia and was a sign that we had moved from being a national player to one of regional significance.

The next milestone would be the establishment of our present factory in Trece Martires, Cavite, in 2000—again, it became the biggest and most modern paint manufacturing facility in the region when it started operations. That same year, we were recognized by The Coatings Agenda as one of the top 50 biggest paint companies in the world, which was a major milestone indicating we were among the leading global players in the industry.

Another set of milestones that we've reached has been the establishment of additional companies to the Boysen Group of Companies. On the automotive and industrial paint segment, Century Chemicals started operations in 1962 and today sell products under the brand names Anzahl, Hudson and Shelby. We also added McGills Chemicals in 1995. These companies are headed by Wilson Ong (son of Vicente Ong Sue also). We also established our own resin and emulsion subsidiaries with Polymer Chemicals in 1975 and Empol Corp. in 1988, and Rezcoat in 1999. The Rezcoat resin facility is located right next to our paint factory in Trece Martires, Cavite, making our Cavite plant an integrated manufacturing facility, Harry Ong (eldest son of Vicente) is the head of these resin companies.

Over the years Pacific Paint realized that Filipinos do not paint their houses as often as people from other countries. They decided to pursue the premium paint route to provide consumers with longer-lasting protection for their houses, albeit at an affordable rate.

Not everyone lost power during Typhoon 'Milenyo'

By Abigail L. Ho

FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, METRO MANIla had seemed invincible to typhoons, no matter how strong. And for more than five years, Luzon had not experienced a system-wide blackout.

Typhoon "Milenyo" (international codename: Xangsane) changed all that when it wrought havoc on Metro Manila last Sept. 28.

Years-old trees were uprooted, billboards along Edsa fell and caused damage to property and even death, power transmission and distribution lines were severely damaged—plunging all of Luzon in darkness by midday.

Economic zones, industrial parks and information technology (IT) parks—areas where it would be a mortal sin to have power and telecommunication system failures—were not spared from the Luzon-wide blackout that lasted for hours for some and stretched for days for many.

IT park Northgate Cyberzone within the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang was one of the areas badly hit by the typhoon, where most of the Manila Electric Co.'s felled lines and poles were located.

But its locators—HSBC, Convergys, E-Telecare and GE subsidiary Genpact, were not that concerned when power went out, said Ieyo De Guzman, first vice president at Northgate Cyberzone developer Filinvest Alabang Inc.

Power was out for three days, she said, but operations of the IT park's locators, mostly engaged in business process outsourcing, were hardly disrupted.

"We had no problem with electricity and any of the facilities (in the IT park). Our generators all worked perfectly, and there were no disruptions in telecom services because there were so many redundancies," said Josephine Gotianun-Yap, president of Filinvest Alabang parent firm Filinvest Development Corp.

She said Filinvest had arranged with a gasoline station in the area to have 6,000 liters of diesel available to it in the event of power interruptions so its generators could run for days, if necessary.

De Guzman said severe power fluctuations that could affect facilities in the IT park and the Corporate City, in general, prompted Filinvest to continue to run its generators even after power was restored in the area.

Northgate Cyberzone was fortunate enough to have power restored only two days after the Luzon-wide blackout.

De Guzman said the IT park probably had its underground power and telecom cabling system to thank for this.

Areas that suffered the longest time in the dark were mostly those with the most number of damaged poles and overhead lines.

So spending four times more for the underground cabling system, as compared to the conventional overhead system, worked for Northgate Cyberzone in a big way, in the wake of Typhoon Milenyo.

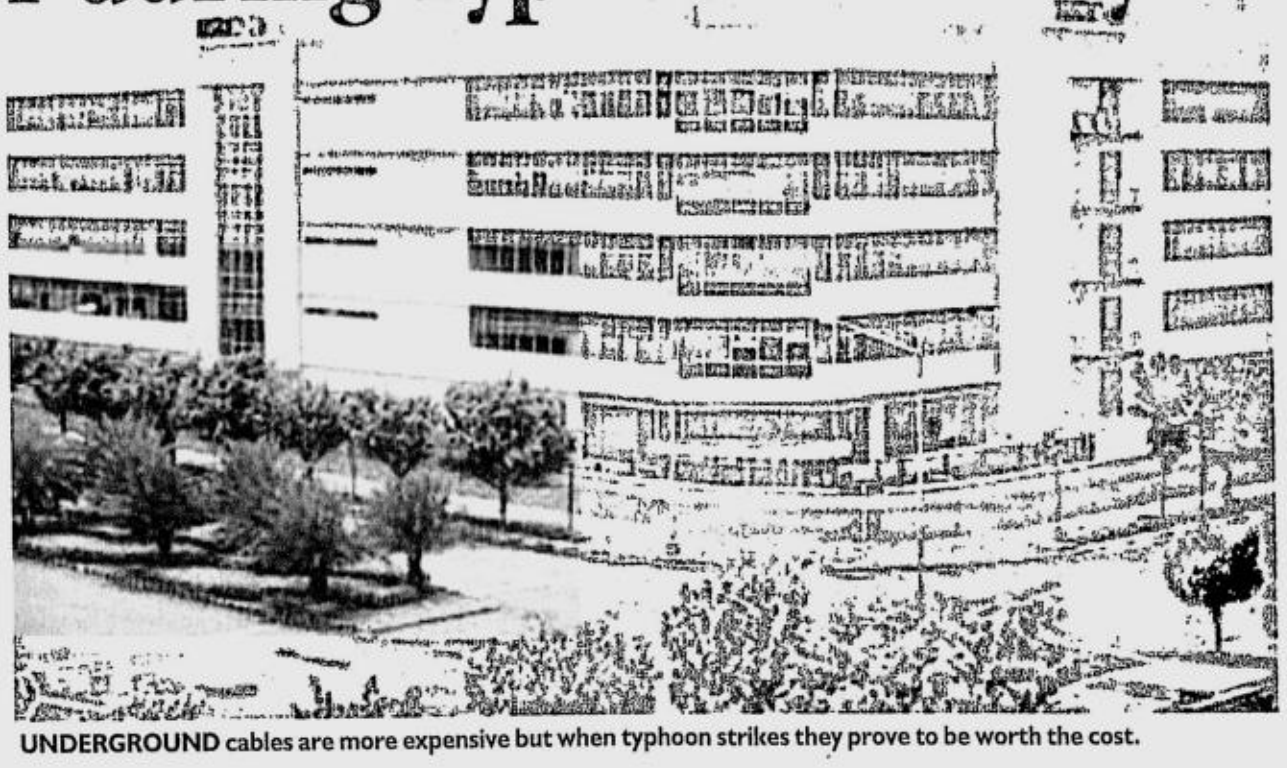
Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the possibility of mandating underground cabling was actually raised, considering the damage that Typhoon Milenyo caused on transmission and distribution lines all over Luzon.

The high cost of such a system, however, prevents government from making this mandatory, he said. Also, flood-prone areas could not have submerged cables.

While it had already proven that its underground power and telecom cabling system prevented serious disruptions in the operations of its IT park locators, De Guzman said Filinvest was now looking at other power supply options.

Right now, she said the entire Corporate City was totally dependent on Meralco for its power supply.

"Filinvest is studying alternative sources," to provide not only Northgate Cyberzone locators but also the entire Corporate City "a more reliable, cost-competitive power supply."



UNDERGROUND cables are more expensive but when typhoon strikes they prove to be worth the cost.

RP urged to tap second home market

A TOP EXECUTIVE OF AN INTERNATIONAL realty firm is urging the Philippines to cash in on the world's trillion-dollar second-home market.

Filipino-American seniors real estate specialist and Barlin International Group (BIG) chief executive officer Susan Barlin said the globalization of the real estate industry could provide the Philippines its much-needed foreign investments.

"The world's cross-border direct commercial real estate investment alone jumped by 21 percent to $475 billion in 2005 and is still rising," said Barlin, also president liaison of the US National Association of Realtors (NAR) to the Philippines.

Barlin cautioned the industry against referring to this market as "retirees" or the Philippines as a "retirement haven," but rather as one of the top global "second home" destinations.

She cited a PriceWaterHouse Coopers study highlighting the increase in net flows of cross-border investment in real estate at an annual market growth rate of 23 percent.

"In the US alone, many are buying second homes. In fact, four million Americans live abroad. Over 1/3 of residential sales in the US are second homes, and 13,000 retire everyday," Barlin pointed out.

All in all, this global market, according to Barlin, consists of 45 million in the US, 20 million in Europe, 3.8 million in Canada, 15 million in Asia, and three million Filipino-Americans, 300,000 of whom are baby boomers born in 1946 to 1964.

"We just have to market the Philippines correctly and effectively depending on each market's cultural nuances and preferences," Barlin stressed.

Barlin is intent on doing that through international marketing events dubbed "Roadshow sa Manila" at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel on Dec. 14-16 this year and the "Asian International Real Estate Expo and Conference" (AIREEC) at the Philippine International Convention Center on Dec. 6-10, 2007.

The "Roadshow sa Manila" will feature properties in Baguio, Batangas, Bacolod, Bicol, Cebu, Zamboanga and the rest of the archipelago, while AIREEC will showcase the Philippines and other parts of the world to the global real estate market, including NAR's members in 55 countries worldwide.

At present, the world's top choices for second homes are Panama, France, Malta, Mexico.

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Come home to a place where everyday is a new adventure, with boundless possibilities and fascinating things to explore. Come home to Timberland Heights.

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Discover nature's idyllic pleasures from your own backyard. Experience nature first-hand as you frolic in the **Greenways**. A sprawling 80 hectares of nature trails, winding and wooded path trails, swimming holes, camping sites and huge sprawling landscapes, the **Greenways** makes communing with nature truly pleasurable.

Adventure on call

Discover the freedom of going on an adventure any time you feel like it with **Timberland Sports and Nature Club**, an exclusive membership club where your whole family can enjoy various indoor, outdoor and "nature-based" amenities, as well as facilities for sports, recreation and relaxation. For inquiries on club membership, please call 927-9995.

Exquisite living choices

Discover a new way of life. More than just a home, Timberland Heights boasts of themed communities with a Tropical Asian flavor to suit different lifestyles. There's **Mandala Residential Farm Estates** for hobby farmers who enjoy cultivating their very own farm lots. Then, there's the exclusive dream hideaways of **Banyan Ridge** for those who appreciate luxury and freedom. Or if you'd prefer a complete mountain residence, you can choose from the three country homes offered by **The Ranch**.

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Bite into the freshest organic vegetables, straight from your backyard everyday. At Mandala Residential Farm Estates in Timberland Heights, you can cultivate your own farm lots and vegetable gardens, giving you ready access to the freshest produce.

Designed for everyday living, Timberland Heights is the perfect nature retreat. Bask in the cool climate and unpolluted environment while enjoying the breathtaking mountainscape and the picturesque views of the city. Master-planned to answer your needs, the 677-hectare Timberland Heights offers the relaxation of resort living while providing the complete amenities of a township.

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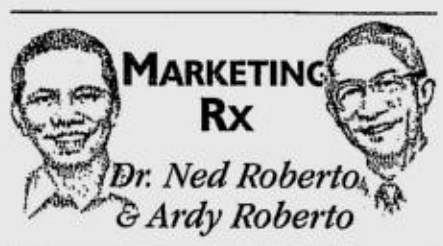
INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

BUSINESS Friday

Online brand health check – part II



MARTIN LINDSTROM CONCLUDES our two part brand health check test this week. Lindstrom, the best-selling author of Brand Sense and co-founder of BBDO Interactive Europe which grew to become the region's largest Internet solution company, will be a featured speaker, along with brand gurus David Aaker, Jack Trout and Faith Popcorn, at the Global Brand Forum (www.globalbrandforum.org) in Singapore this Nov. 6 and 7.

Last week, I discussed five aspects of your brand's online presence with the objective of ensuring that you're not on the way to committing online brand suicide. This week, I offer you five more questions for this online self-analysis. If you manage to answer yes to all the questions, your brand is well on its way to being able to sustain, and hopefully increase, its level of health.

But don't feel too desperate if you can't respond affirmatively to all five of these questions. Most companies are likely to fail this test, even though, as was the case last time, the questions are really very simple.

1. Match consumer expectations

What do your users expect from your site when they visit? Do they expect to gain more knowledge? To be able to purchase your product at a discount? To gain access to a wider range of products or certain information? To be entertained? You might know what you would expect from the site, but I would bet that your expectation is different from your audience's. My question is two-fold: Have you investigated what your consumer actually wants from your site, and, if you have, was your site at least 75 percent on point in meeting those expectations?

2. Give them a reason to return

Amazon.com expects its customers to stay with it for at least 10 years. What is your expectation of your consumer lifespan? Are you delivering enough to re-attract your visitors time after time? Are you offering enough exceptional offers? Enough news? Enough exclusive data? Enough? Yes, it's important to attract new customers. But it's even more important to retain them, especially since retention costs about one-tenth of acquisition. What is your customer retention rate? Is it about 80 percent? If so, you pass.

3. Surprise customers positively

Imagine you were able to predict everything you saw on television today, everything you read in the paper, every movie's denouement. Would that not be boring? Now, after visiting your site once, would I be able to predict what it would offer me on my next visit? Or would I be positively surprised not only during my first visit but also on each subsequent visit? Surprising your customers in a positive way builds your brand by creating excitement and loyalty. Would you be able to surprise 50 percent of your audience every time they visit your site?

4. Keep your brand's promise—and add a bit more

If you promise to deliver within 48 hours, deliver within 47 hours. If you promise to accept product returns without any questions asked, return the money without asking a single question. If you promise to update your news section every day, update it every day. If you promise to answer any email inquiries within 24 hours, do it in 20 hours. Now, do you keep your promises at least 95 percent of the time?

5. Remove the logo

In my latest book, "Clicks, Bricks & Brands," I discuss one of Coca-Cola's great marketing legends: Its bottle. That famous bottle was designed so that no matter how many pieces it might be smashed into, each piece would be recognizable as having once been part of a Coca-Cola bottle. Keeping this principle in mind, remove all your logos from your site, remove all brand names, and then ask the consumer to visit your site and guess to which brand it belongs.

If 70 percent of your visitors mention your brand, your Web site is on track. It means that you have managed to involve every communications element in your brand message, that you've translated every design detail, text inclusion, color scheme, and so on as meaningful contributors to your brand's consistent message. In theory, your logo should no longer be necessary to identify the brand.

So, how did you fare with the two-part test? If you've been able to respond affirmatively to all 10 questions, yours is among the 5 percent of Web sites that demonstrate a clear knowledge of branding.

If you fared poorly in the test, my advice is that you urgently adjust your strategy—restore your brand to health by getting your site on track. Why? Because your competitor is likely to have completed this self-examination, too.

Open house on entrepreneurs' course set on Oct. 26

THE MASTER IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ME) Program of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) is inviting business owners and entrepreneurs to attend its Open House on Oct. 26, 2006 at 5:00 pm at the AIM Campus. Prof. Eduardo Morato Jr., the chief architect of the ME Program, will present the course design of the ME program. Selected ME graduates will impart their learning experiences during and after completing the program.

The Master in Entrepreneurship is an 18-month degree program designed for hands-on entrepreneurs who have been running their enterprises for a minimum of one year. The core value proposition of the ME program is the transformation of the enterprise and the entrepreneur. The program highlights creative leadership, and aims to improve the entrepreneur's productivity, profitability, and professionalism. Its unconventional program design and delivery makes the ME program markedly different.

The first part of the program is a continuous, full time 20-day course which schedule is from Monday to Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:20 p.m. During this first 20 days, participants are introduced to the Foundation of Entrepreneurial Management (FEM), which covers the three entrepreneurial dimensions of self-mastery, situation mastery and enterprise mastery.

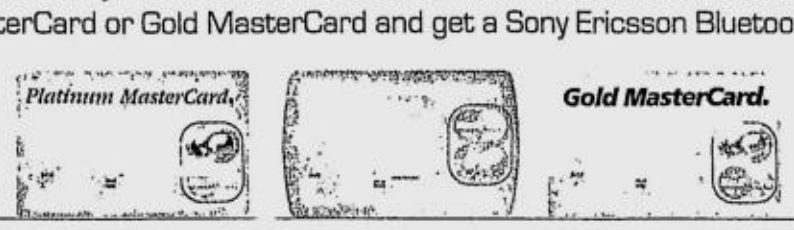
The second part of the program runs every other weekend—Fridays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:20 p.m. This part involves a dual-training system where the participants first attend formal classes four days a month for 18 months, then, they apply their learnings to their own enterprises, which become their cases and laboratories. Their strategies, programs, and plans for their own companies are open for class and group discussions, as well as guru critiquing and analysis.

The next class is slated on Feb. 19, 2007. Deadline for application is until Dec. 8, 2006. For questions, call (632) 892-4011 loc. 389 or email at msantos@aim.edu

Sony Ericsson

Here's an offer worth listening to.

Purchase a **Sony Ericsson P990i** with your Platinum MasterCard, Titanium MasterCard or Gold MasterCard and get a Sony Ericsson Bluetooth Headset free.



• Every purchase of a Sony Ericsson P990i from the following participating outlets such as a) Sony Ericsson Concept Shops in SM North EDSA, Digital Exchange Glorietta 1, Greenbelt 1, SM Mall of Asia, Ayala Center Cebu, NCCC Mall Davao b) Avant in Greenbelt 4 c) Abenson Shops in Glorietta 1, Eastwood Libis, Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-la Plaza Mall d) Ambassador in Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Park Square 1 e) Automatic Centre Shops in Glorietta 4, Gateway Mall, Festival Supermall, North EDSA f) Comcenter in Park Square 1, Market! Market!, SM San Lazaro g) Semicon in Cyber One Mall, SM Southmall, Podium Mall, Power Plant Mall, SM Centerpoint, SM Fairview, SM Megamall, SM North EDSA h) Western Marketing in Pasay Road Makati and SM Megamall entitles the customer to a free Sony Ericsson Bluetooth Headset HBH PV700.

Promotion period is from October 9, 2006 until November 19, 2006

See flyers for details.

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BUSINESS Friday

BICOL'S six provinces chose a product each for intensive development and promotion.

81 makers show off goods in Bicol trade fair

In 2005, Bicol exported $45 million worth of bags, decors, accessories, paper items

By Delma L. Peyra
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—THE Department of Trade and Industry here is in its final preparations for 81 Bicol manufacturers and their products to take center stage at the Orgullo Kan Bicol trade fair on Oct. 19-22 at the SM Megamall Trade Hall 1 in Mandaluyong City.

The Bicol word "orgullo" means heritage or legacy.

Buyers and the public can

81 MAKERS/ B2-2

Masskara: Festival fuels local enterprise

TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AFTER BACOLOD City put on a sea of smiling masks and called it the Masskara Festival, local entrepreneurs are brimming over with business opportunities.

Hotels are now fully booked, yet travelers have put their names in waiting lists just to have lodging during the Masskara's final weekend from Oct. 19 to 22. The local tourism office, headed by Imogene Kana-an, report that they have started to look for dormitories to house the increased number of tourists during the big weekend of the festival.

Meanwhile, the three airline companies operating regular flights to Bacolod report a 30-percent increase in passenger volume every time October unfolds.

The increased traffic has benefited the ground tour operators. Kimberworld, one of the tour operators, noted an 80-percent increase in the volume of tourists coming to Bacolod every October.

The increased in visitors has provided opportunities for big and small enterprises especially those involved in food and handicrafts.

Bacolod City, the capital of Negros Occidental, the country's major sugar producer, is known for its sweet delicacies. Among these are the famous piaya, a flat cookie with muscuvado sugar filling; napoleones, butterscotch, barquillos, and caramel tarts.

Pastry business

The pastry enterprise has grown to be a major revenue earner for the city. Signs of progress in this sector are the new building facilities of pastry brands like BongBong's and Sugarland which used to be known only for their barquillos.

Today, both have grown from home-based enterprises to supermarket-style buying outlets. From barquillos, BongBong's products now include sugar-coated cookies, caramel tarts, piaya and yema candies.

Another home-based pastry shop that has expanded is Virgie's. Starting with caramel and mango tarts, Virgie's products are diverse—meringue, polvoron-filled barquillos sticks, cookies and candies. The manufacturing facilities and showroom of Virgie's products are now housed in a new three-story building.

Restaurants selling Bacolod's signature food like the chicken inasal and the grilled seafoods report "overflowing dining areas."

The city government notes increased revenue through the business permits released especially during the weeks of the festival. Sonya Verdeflor of the festival site office said this year there are over 200 booths, stalls and roving vendors at the Masskara SM Village alone. Another food festival site located at Burgos Street has about a hundred shops.

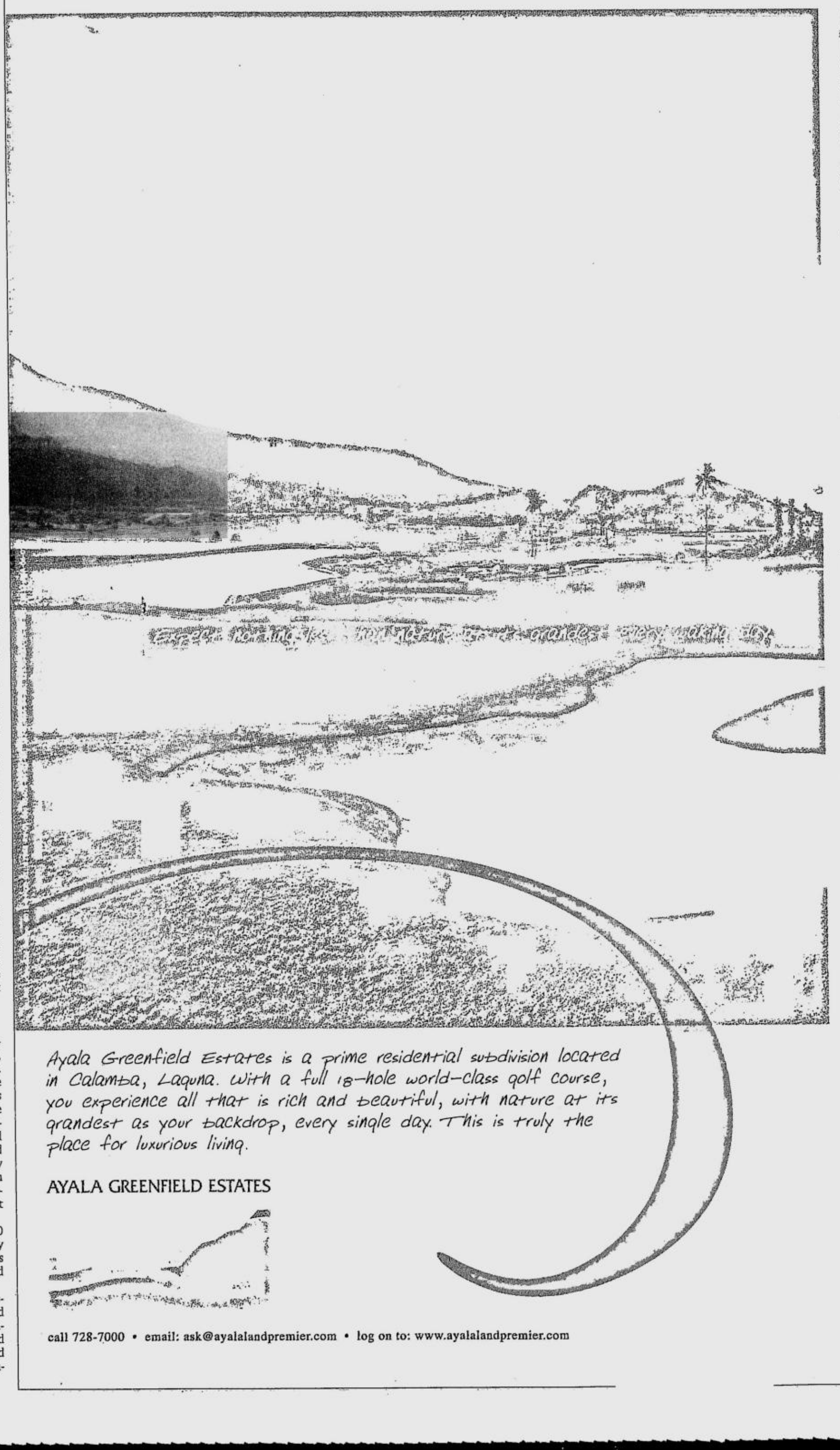
Handicrafts

The Negros Showroom, home of fine products of the Association of Negros Producers, reflect the growing business of handicrafts. Aside from the smiling masks which are the signature pieces of the festival, travelers have made bestsellers of furnishings made from local materials. A wide variety of candle holders—from antique glass, steel, wood and even coconut husks—have even earned places in foreign markets. So, too, the variety of tableware like placemats which have been delicately fashioned from indigenous materials like sugarcane stalks, bamboo, coconut fronds, recycled paper and local cloth.

This year, the parades will start on Oct. 20 for the schools category. But the most lively parade is expected on Oct. 21 when 25 teams from the city's barangays will show off grand productions of dance and acrobatic skills.

Twenty-seven years ago, the Masskara Festival was developed by Ely Santiago and George Macainan, both artists who were invited to create a diversion from the depressed sugar economy. The result has put Bacolod City in the tourism highway, and its local entrepreneurs in the eye of economic activity.

AyalaLandPREMIER



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Making Manileños say 'manamit'

Ilongga chef brings her culinary talents to the big city

BANUSING

By Emmaruth Gabriel
Contributor

SHE HAS THE MAKINGS OF BEing the local Rachel Ray, the host of the Lifestyle Channel show called "30-minute Meals."

Hip and young, but always unassuming, Chef Pauline Banusing captivates. Like her American culinary counterpart, Banusing is a testament to sheer entrepreneurial spirit.

As early as seven years old, Banusing was already selling jewelry to help her mother in their family jewelry business. At 23, she was working in the family fast food business called Try Me. After college, she went to the United States where she worked as an apprentice for a restaurant on Fifth Avenue without pay. She took all of these in stride and persevered.

To date, the thirty-something lines her toque (chef's hat) with courses from Culinary Institute of America in New York, Continuing Education on Mediterranean cuisine, French cooking, chocolate making, breads and pastries, seafood cooking and soups, stocks and sauces. She also attended a chef master class at the New School Culinary in Manhattan and a food and beverage cost control management class at the New York University in Manhattan. She has also undergone US meat and US beef training in Singapore. She is also one of the few in the country who has a certificate from the International Council for Serving Safe and Sanitary Food.

Al Dente success

Returning from the United States, and settling back in her hometown, Iloilo, Banusing set to work. She breathed new life into the Ilonggo dining scene when she thought of putting up the only Italian restaurant in the city she grew up in. When people around the city said it would not work, she made it happen. Now, Al Dente is the epicenter for the well-heeled socialites, business people and politicians in Iloilo.

She then expanded to another restaurant, Citrus Wine Bar, then Ground Coffee where she swears you can get not only the best burgers in Iloilo but your caffeine fix as well.

Banusing constantly changes the look and updates Al Dente restaurant. The interiors she picks do not distract the diner from the food that is served. Ever the trooper, Banusing thumbs critics and is all set to open an Al Dente restaurant in Automall, Silver City at Frontera Verde in Pasig City.

Soon, as she has done with Al Dente Iloilo, Manila's taste buds will be tickled pink with her fare of innovative and modern Italian food offerings.

Villa Regatta

Sensing it was the right time, Banusing set up a casual dining place called Villa Regatta on Villa Beach and dished out grilled managat, juicy scallops with lemon butter sauce. Despite observations from friends that there was no market for a restaurant like this, Banusing went ahead and now is top-of mind of diners when in the Villa area.

The venture worked because she provided a contemporary and modern "grillery" alternative to the beach loving set. The restaurants in the area before just had plain tables and chairs with a grill. Banusing added color and sea elements like oars and nets, to take diners on a regatta trip.

Her advocacy for all things Ilonggo soon spread and she is currently the most sought after food consultant/ chef in Ilonggo cuisine. The Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City invited her to be their guest chef recently when they launched their Ilonggo food festival called "Manamit!" (delicious in Ilonggo)

She has been changing the way Ilonggos eat for some time now. She opens new restaurants without fanfare and they easily become entrenched in the Ilonggo dining scene. Now Chef Pauline is breaking into Manila with her latest creation, a freestanding seafood restaurant on Katipunan Avenue called Freska.

Freska

The following for her seafood fare drew inspiration from the success (mostly word of mouth) of the initial branch at Freska opened in October 2005 at Tiendesitas at Frontera Verde, Pasig City.

The restaurant's name is derived from the word "priska" meaning fresh. The restaurant seats around a hundred people. It offers both in-house and offsite catering services. She designed the menu to capture the Villa district's aquatic bounties as well as non-aquatic fare.

Freska is proud of its house specialties such as the grilled Bulgan (Seabass) or grilled scallops with lemon butter sauce, baked oysters with two cheese.

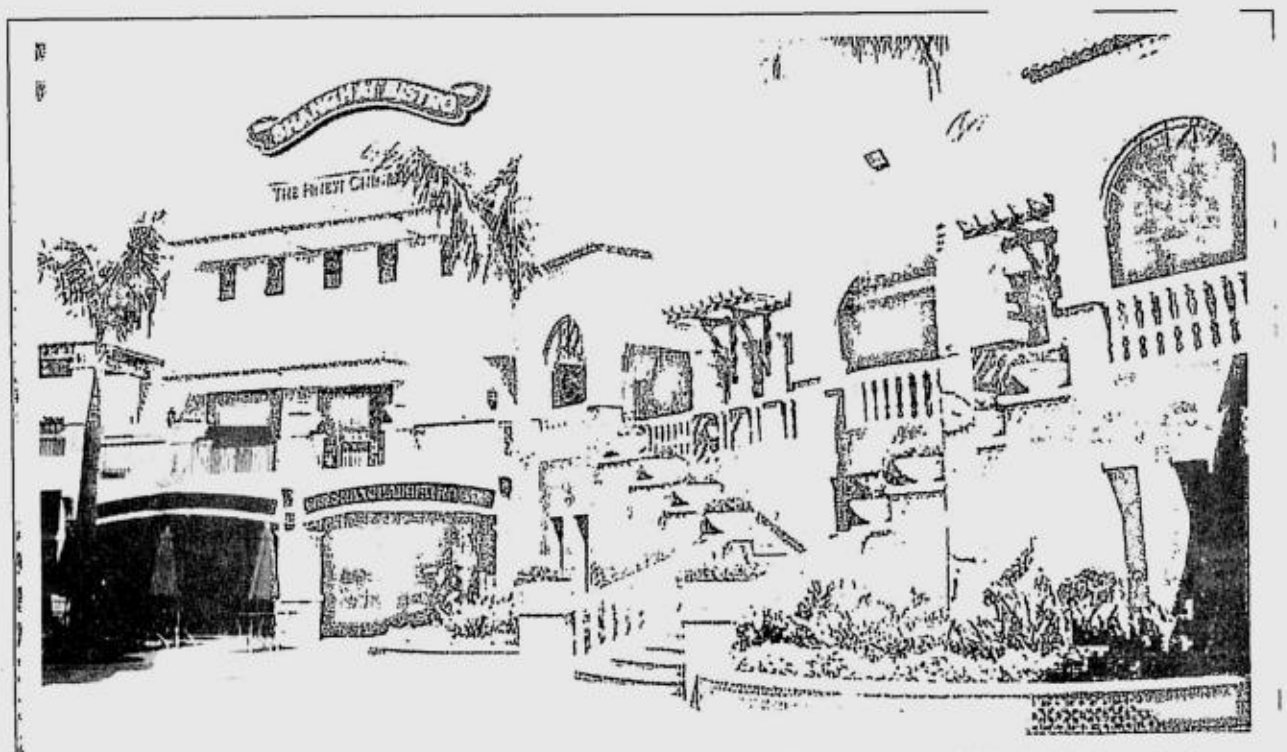
It also offers non-seafood choices such as 1960s Chicken Inasal.

Her partners in the business, Mark Gorriceta, Caroline Dizon, Kim Salazar and Karen Ganzon work as a group and leverage on each other's strengths in running Freska.

Secrets to success

Humility coupled by perseverance. These are the ingredients that have kept Chef Banusing in top form and ahead of her game in the industry. She has earned the respect of her peers through her unassuming nature.

She knows what she is doing and has been re-creating the food service and restaurant catering industry at her own pace—slow, sure and deliberate.



SHANGHAI Bistro targets corporate clients with its function rooms. At the Eastwood City in Libis branch, it can accommodate groups of eight to ten, to as many as 150. In the Shanghai Bistro-Paseo, function rooms can accommodate parties of 40 up to 120. Room rates range from P3,00 consumable for smaller rooms; while rooms accommodating 40 or more persons are set at banquet menu rates at P550 to P660 per head for all-day seminar packages, inclusive of two snacks and lunch.

81 makers ...

From page B2-1

find mostly handcrafted products and ethnic food. Among these are home furnishings, giftware and holiday décors, wearables, fresh and processed food products, organic and natural products, cutlery and furniture.

"Orgullo Kan Bicol promotes products of Bicol's homegrown SMEs that utilize indigenous materials, local manpower skills, creativity and craftsmanship," says DTI regional director Jocelyn Blanco.

Bicol is traditionally known as home to at least four products—abaca or Manila hemp, coconut and copra, ceramics which trace their origins to pre-Hispanic period, and pili nut.

Most manufacturers here have successfully sold their wares in the world markets.

Based on DTI data, at least $45 million or P2.25 billion worth of various wall decors, bags, fashion accessories, paper products, gifts and holiday décor were exported by Bicol in 2005.

The trade fair, on its 10th year, has also generated some P58 million in sales, says Imelda Cabañanes, DTI-5 information officer.

OK Bicol will have 130 new designs for order taking.

For the first time the DTI has tapped the services of five local designers to assist trade fair participants in developing new designs, aside from the services of the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines.

A local designers' association is also in the works.

DTI is working around its One-Town-One-Product (Otop) program.

Each of the six provinces of Bicol has chosen a product for intensive development and promotion in line with Otop.

Albay has ceramics; Camarines Norte, pineapple; Camarines Sur, "hinabol or woven products; Catanduanes, lasa or tiger grass; Masbate, dried fish; and Sorsogon, pili.

Also down the line, each town and city has a particular product to develop.

Otop is patterned after Japan's successful One Village One Product project that has also been replicated in Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, India and Pakistan.

In September, the DTI formed the OK Bicol Association, with this year's trade fair participants as initial members. It is envisioned to become the front-runner of the regional trade fairs in the coming years.

Other sponsors for OK Bicol include the office of the first congressional district of Albay under Rep. Edcel Lagman, Philexport-Bicol, Center for International Trade Exposition and Missions and the Advocate of Philippine Trade Fair Inc.

INQUIRER TV GUIDE Friday, October 20, 2006

ABC Hot Copy

Finals na BAD 9 9

Philippine Idol

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				PBA				Big News	PBA				Philippine Idol	Sentro	Real Stories		Asiaa-Arava Premyo Sa Kasibo	Letty La Mas Fair
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema		My Girl	Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Maging Sino Ka Man	Maalala Mo Kaya			Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		Guinness World Records: 50 Yrs. 50 Records		Lost (Season II)		Fear Factor (Season VI)		Bantamaster (Season I)		Maximum Exposure (Season III)		Ultimate Guinness World Records		Men In Black II				Half Past Dead	
bTV				Vintage NBA		WNBA Finals: Detroit Shock @ Sacramento Monarchs				BPI-U 2006 NCAA Jour. Champ Finals				NBA Access	NBA Preseason: Clippers @ Lakers				
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Wmx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel/The Grim Adventures of Billy & Mandy/ Ben 10/Kim Possible/ Sam Panther's A Kibbitzer	Robotboy	Minsupo De Bon The Simpsons-Tree House Of Horror IV/ Homerazumo De Pon	Pokemon The Movie: Jirachi Wishmaker/ Pokemon: The Johto Journey	The Justirsers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog/ Last Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King/ The Simpsons-Tree House Of Horror/ Shaman King
Cinema One Cinemax		Biyaya Ng Lupa	Waterworld (3:20 PM)			Milan	The Making Of Battlestar Galactica 2		The Making Of Battlestar Galactica 2	Luv Text The Chronicles Of Riddick				Lapu-Lapu Arlington Road				Dahas The Last Samurai (10:05PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
CrimeSuspense		The Closer		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		LO Criminal Intent / Traffic		Prison Break	
Discovery Channel		Extreme Machines		Risk Takers		How Do They Do It	Mean Machines	Beyond Tomorrow		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It	Mean Machines	Final 24		Crime Scene Psychics	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unfabulous/ Bunny	Shuriken School	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World of Disney			Emperor's New School/ Kim Possible/ Phil Of The Future/ Dexter's Lab/ Emperor's New School	America's Funniest Home Video	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies/ Winnie the Pooh/ Sigma Time Will Rod	Wonderful World of Disney	
ESPN		Honda LPGA Thailand 2006 (8:10 PM)						MLB CShip: Mets Game7 (9:15PM)						Sportscenter Asia	Classic Boxing		Classic Boxing		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Veronica Mars		Change of Heart	Elimidale	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Evenwood		American Dreams		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agaw Ng Mga Ang Lahat	Mona and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Panabahago (3:45 PM)	Judging Amy	Salyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Batchmate (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel						Sue Thomas F. B. Eye		Mckenzi's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Just Cause		Midsomer Murders: A Talent For Life				Regenesis	
HBO			Steel			Going Bananas (5:15 PM)				Thunderbirds				Event Horizon			Striptease		
Hero TV	Combattler V	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mimmo de Pon	Sugar: A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Sayuki Gunlock	Evil Metal Panic Fumoffu	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Rayn-Oh	Combattler V	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics: Arts Mad TV		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics: Arms	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Ronda	Karera Sports TV	
JackTV		Back Track				Swasi	X-Play	Heat				That 70s Show	Everybody Hate Chris	Family Guy	American Dad	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Primetime Glick	The Late Show: David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY Jewelry Making	Food 911	Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Clean House		Martha		Isaac		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure
MTV Philippines		MTV Hits	VH1 Fabulous Life of Britney & Kevin	VH1 Fabulous Life of Miami	Boiling Points	My Own	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	MTV Hits	MTV Dyes		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV News	Rockola	Vh1 Fabulous Life Celeb Kids	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXlog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Nat Geographic Specials		Extraterrestal				Top 5		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		Bin Laden's Spy In America			
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Actp.			Days Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo Wil Spy Libis & Angelyn Lazo News Beat (Live)		RSS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay CCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbabuyag		All Grown Up/ Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan	All That	World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chakrizone	Hey Arnold! The Jungle Old Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Asian Anime Hey Arnold!: The Legend Of Spiky Kappa Mikey		SpongeBob SquarePants	Mr Life As A Teenage Robot			Trollz	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents		Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Tayong Dalawa				Kambas				Manoy Dela Riva Story				Zaloichi				Wangbu
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	BB Daman Bakugaiden	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savidge	Jake In Progress	NCIS		CSI: Miami		Without A Trace		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sheperds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports	Golf Today	Bikini Destination	Exotic Extreme	World's Greatest Auto Show				Billiards: WC Pool		Sagupaan	Gillette World Sport Spot Rage (7:35 PM)	Nopi Tunervision		Raceworld		Sportsdesk		Spanish League	
Star Movies				Paris Of April (4:15 PM)		Raceworld								Ice Princess			Death To The Supermodels		
Star World	Two And A Half Men	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		The Apprentice	The Tailor Of Panama	The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia		TNA Wrestling		Third Watch		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXlog	Superman The Animated Series	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		7th Heaven		Ghost Whisperer (8:15 PM)		News Central			MYXlog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

UP Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity holds National Convention

The U.P. Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity led by its Chancery or alumni association is holding its National Convention from 20 to 22 October 2006 at the Great Eastern Hotel, Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City with the theme: "HONORING THE PAST. STRENGTHENING THE PRESENT. SHAPING THE FUTURE." It is a 3-day event that will be attended by resident and alumni members of the Fraternity coming from all regions in the country, as well as those from the United States and the rest of the world.

During the convention, the members will be discussing a number of issues regarding the Chancery and its chapters, the implementation of their continuing projects and programs, their involvement in local and national affairs, and further promoting their dominance and excellence in the field of law and in other professions Also, there will be a series of activities that will start in U.P. and events will be held not only in the official venue of the convention but also at the Celebrity Sports Club and the Capitol Golf Club.

It will also be an occasion for the election by the members of the Chancery of their new set of directors. In addition, there will be awards to be bestowed upon members of the Fraternity who made extraordinary contributions in strengthening its ranks.

Those expected to grace the Convention are Supreme Court Justices Reynato S. Puno and Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Court of Appeals Justices Edgardo Cruz and Arsenio Magpale, Congressmen Edcel Lagman, Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Robert Ace Barbers and Hans Christian Señeres. Presidential Assistant Heherson T. Alvarez and PRC Commissioner Renato B. Valdecantos. Many prominent members of the Fraternity will also be in attendance.

Lord Chancellor Raul Bautista Villanueva is leading the preparations for the said event, with Convention Chairman Pastor "Mar" Reyes laying the ground works for the same and attending to the details with respect thereto together with the Chairmen of the various committees involved therein. The holding of the event is sponsored by many members of the Fraternity from the public and private sectors, in the legal and other professions, and those coming from the different sectors in Philippine society.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

JUSTICE REYNATO S. PUNO

The holding of the Alphan National Convention is a defining moment in the life of the Fraternity. It is a fitting occasion to showcase the lasting legacies of our fellow members in the university, in particular, and in our society, in general.

There is no doubt about the tremendous contributions of the Fraternity members in the Judiciary, in the legal profession, in the public and private sectors. The traditions of excellence, leadership, and independence instilled in all of us have proven to be the distinct advantage of every Alphan. The depth of intellect and strength of character that distinguish us from the rest make us solidly equipped to meet the challenges of life, especially now during the most trying times in our nation's history

I urge all the Brothers therefore to take this opportunity to further promote the causes of the Fraternity and help achieve its noble goals. More importantly, together and united let us take the initiative to serve not only those who are within our ranks, but also, the country and the Filipino people

To the Directors and Officers of the Chancery, I extend my profoundest congratulations for painstakingly working to make this Convention a reality Truly, you deserve all the accolades for a job well done.

"Mabuhay tayong lahat at ang Alpha Phi Beta!"

HON. REYNATO S. PUNO
Senior Associate Justice

Message

U.P. Alpha Phi Beta Chancery, Inc.

JUSTICE HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ

As we approach the threshold of our first 100 years as a Fraternity, we have begun to unleash our vast energy for great achievement, by creating an opportunity for mutual support to pursue our dreams and aspirations for the common good

Whether a lawyer, Judge or a Justice, a promising entrepreneur or a captain of industry, a Bureau Director or a Senator, if he is an ALPHAN, all other ALPHANS will almost always share in his triumph or success. ALPHANS push and cheer for ALPHANS, building and strengthening our collective fraternity bond and pride.

As a young boy from remote Cagayan Valley, DILIMAN came upon me as a vast, fascinating, yet isolating community. Instinctively, I sought and found the comfortable familiarity of tribe and home in the Fraternity. During the darkest days of my life as a young man, my fellow ALPHANS were there with me to help disentangle a judicial dead-end, that could have ruined my drive to achieve. Brods, I bear witness to that near mystical bond that we share

The Alpha Phi Beta is our human link to a gigantic, nearly impersonal university. It has become the invisible pipeline that cuts through decades -- even generations, to carry the tall tales of our youthful misdemeanors, herald our achievements, and even reminisce romantic trysts that would have been buried and forgotten in the enormous events during the great life of a university.

In every opportunity I have always sought to build our spirit of fraternal support. And I know that each of us protect it as the outstanding and enduring value of our brotherhood. Together, let us renew our commitment to each other and to the fraternal traditions, values, and ideals of this, our eternal fraternity. We must continue to build and strengthen the ALPHAN edifice of honor, excellence, and mutual support from which the generations of ALPHANS can draw the courage, strength, and wisdom to achieve great things for the greater good of the nation and our ALPHA PHI BETA!

HON. HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ
Former Lord Chancellor

Message

Congratulations to the UP Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity
on the occasion of its 2006 National Convention

VP

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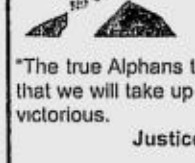
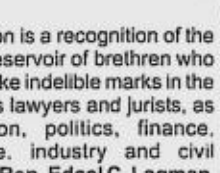
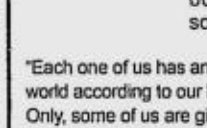
Alphan Greetings



" If we did well in the past, let us do better. If we did not do much, let us do more. If we did not act, let us get moving."
Justice Abraham F. Sarmiento



"The greatness of the Fraternity lies in each and every one of us. Every Brod, with the exception of none, should help and contribute. Certainly, now, or any other time for that matter, is not the moment to turn our backs on the Fraternity."
Judge Raul B. Villanueva



"I'm certain so many powerful minds that move the fraternity will come up with vital ideas not only in areas of law and justice but also in public service and national renascence."
Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing

"It is a pleasure and honor to be part of an esteemed brotherhood that prides itself of having reared leaders and decision-makers who have shaped and continue to shape practically all aspects of Philippine society."
Justice Edgardo P. Cruz

"Today and looking back, I can declare with conviction that my life history would not have been the same had I not become your brod.
Justice Arsenio J. Magpale

"The true Alphans that we are, I am confident that we will take up the challenge and emerge victorious.
Justice Francisco H. Villaruz, Jr.

"The Alphan Convention is a recognition of the Fraternity's veritable reservoir of brethren who have made and will make indelible marks in the advocacy of the law as lawyers and jurists, as well as in education, politics, finance, business, agriculture, industry and civil society."
Rep. Edcel C. Lagman

"Each one of us has an innate power to create a world according to our hopes and aspirations. Only, some of us are given greater responsibilities, some of us have chosen to embrace greater accountability and opted on carrying heavier loads. For this, my brothers, I am forever proud that the same blood flow in our veins.
Rep. Francis "Chiz" Escudero

"If I may just say so, my being a member of the Fraternity was no accident. It was an eventuality that was only waiting to happen. After all, not only has this been my own aspiration, but this serves as a lasting legacy to a Brod I know is considered by many as a GIANT in the Fraternity my father, the late Senator Robert "Bobby" Barbers. He may be gone and his shoes may be too big for me to fill, but I can assure the Brods that the same Alphan blood that flowed freely in his veins can be expected from me, nothing more, nothing less!"
Rep. Roberto Ace S. Barbers

"As we assemble to honor the past, strengthen the present, and shape the future, let us reflect on the meaning of our brotherhood, our vision of the future, and our mission and purpose. Let us contemplate on the lessons of our history, from which we may glean valuable insight to illuminate our minds and invigorate our spirits. May knowledge and wisdom guide us to power and liberty."
Rep. Christian M. Señeres

When Alphans put their heads and minds together there is no task hard enough to perform and no goal high enough to achieve
Comm. Rene B. Valdecantos

"At no other time do we have this chance to shape the APB into a fraternity that will remain relevant and make a big difference in our personal and professional lives and in Philippine society. After all by becoming an Alphan, we should produce "a true and finished man of character."
Atty. Pastor "Mar" Reyes, Jr.

" The idea is to inculcate this culture into the minds of everyone specially the young resident Brods, and hope that we shall, in the future, see a generation of Brods who are their "brothers' keepers"
Atty. Paulino Petralba

"This is an ideal avenue to consolidate the strength of our Fraternity and to carve a united vision for the coming years."
RLC Archimedes B. Gonzales

Mabuhay ang **ALPHA PHI BETA!**

ALPHANS of UP Law Class '80

Brod Cornelio P. Aldon	Brod Nelson Malana (Dec.)
Brod Purisimo S. Buyco	Brod Cezar F. Maravilla, Jr.
Brod Jose Caoibes, Jr.	Brod Benegildo Mendoza
Brod Neraldo A. Dacayo, Jr.	Brod Nathaniel Sauz
Brod Crisostomo Danguilan	Brod Hector D. Soliman
Brod Edwin S. Dela Cruz	LC Gil Tabios
Brod Julieto E. Dizon	Brod Pedro N. Tanchuling
Brod Ray Allan T. Drilon	LC (USA-West) Butch Olivar
Brod Timothy T. Dunque	Brod Roberto O. Parel
Brod Nicolas Fadul, Jr.	VLC Pastor "Mar" Reyes, Jr.
Brod Anesio R. Guades	LC Eleuterio Sarmiento
Brod Generoso Jacinto, Jr.	Brod Benjamin D. Turgano
Brod Alex A. Lopez	Brod Florante E. Tuy
Brod Roberto Rafael Lucila	Brod Dante B. Valera
Brod Ferdinand D. Macaibay	Brod Jose C. Villanueva III

Special PROJECT

UP Alpha Phi Beta Chancery Board for 2005-2006 delivers as promised

WHEN THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS were inducted in January 2005 at the Makati Sports Club, Makati City led by Lord Chancellor Raul Bautista Villanueva, they set out to do as much as they could for the U.P. Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity and its members (or Brods). During their term, they adopted a theme ("Angat ang Panatikong Brod") that served not only as their battle cry but also as a source of inspiration to further strengthen the bond among the members.

As it turned out, they achieved more than what was expected of them. Since their induction, the Chancery directors and officers were able to visit ten (10) regions all over the country where they were met by members who further reinforced their fraternal ties. Also, and in between their trips, they were able to hold monthly gatherings involving different batches of the Fraternity.

A number of forums were held wherein the achievements of the members in the academe, in the authorship of books, in the practice of law, in the foreign service, in business, in politics and in the judiciary, to name a few, were recognized. Also, other events involved discussions on national issues, such as the declaration of a state of national emergency by the government wherein Asst. Majority Leader Edcel Lagman and Minority Floor Leader Francis "Chiz" Escudero served as speakers. When the U.P. Alumni Association chose Ambassador Lauro Baja, Philippine Representative to the United Nations and the Security Council, and Atty. Andres Gatmaitan, as among the outstanding alumni of the University of the Philippines for 2006, the Chancery likewise held a testimonial breakfast in their honor.

The National Convention is a fitting event for the U.P. Alpha Phi Beta to "honor its glorious past, strengthen its enviable present, and shape its bright future."

On the lighter side, there were numerous sports activities as well that were spearheaded by the Chancery, such as tournaments in billiards, badminton and golf. In 2005, the 3rd Lord Chancellor's Cup Open Golf Tournament of the Chancery was joined by about 174 golfers, making it one of the biggest golfing event for the year sponsored by a U.P. organization. As part of its socio-civic involvement, the Chancery had an outreach program at the Molave Youth Center in Quezon City which houses juvenile delinquents or minor offenders.

There were many more programs and projects that were carried out by the present administration of the Chancery involving its members that were internally beneficial to them. It is expected that these will be continued and sustained as the Fraternity further moves on and marches to make its lasting mark in the local and national affairs of the country.

The holding of the Alphan National Convention from 20 to 22 October 2006 at the Great Eastern Hotel, Quezon Boulevard, Quezon City serves as a culminating activity regarding the remarkable achievements of the present board and officers of the Chancery. This is a fitting event for the U.P. Alpha Phi Beta to "honor its glorious past, strengthen its enviable present, and shape its bright future."

We shall not be saved without wisdom, for knowledge is power, but only wisdom is liberty.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

TOYOTA CLASSICS
A World of Harmony

Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra

Ayako Takagi
flute

Tatsuya Shimono
conductor

Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz
pianist

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of world-famous classical selections. The full Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra will be
performing, which promises the evening of vibrant music of the highest international caliber.
The orchestra will be under the baton of Maestro Tatsuya Shimono, an award-winning conductor
acclaimed at the Besançon International Competition for Young Conductors in France.
The soloist at the gala performance will be flutist Ayako Takagi,
one of the most sought-after performers of her generation.
Come join us for an elegant evening of Mozart, the finest composer of his era,
and an anthology of world-renowned classical music.
The concert will also present a performance from world-renowned Filipino pianist,
Mr. Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz.

Toyota Classics 2006

October 24, 2006 (Tuesday) 8:00 PM
The Cultural Center of the Philippines, Main Theater

Tickets are available at selected National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate, Galleria, Pampanga, Cavite and Festival Mall), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Ayala Center Inc., Greenbelt 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby, Glorietta 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby and on the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph. Call 891-9999 for inquiry and reservation.

TICKET PRICES : ***Parterre*** ₱12,000 / box* • ***Lower Boxes*** ₱10,000 / box* • ***Upper Boxes*** ₱8,000 / box*
• ***Orchestra Center*** ₱1,200 • ***Orchestra Side*** ₱1,000 • ***Balcony 1 Center*** ₱500 • ***Balcony 1 Side*** ₱300
Balcony 2 Center ₱200 • ***Balcony 2 Side*** ₱100
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Alpha Phi Beta Chancery Inc. Executive Officers and Board of Directors for 2005-2006

Program of Activities

OCTOBER 20 (FRIDAY)
9:00 - 9:30 Assembly
(Malcolm Hall, UP College of Law)
10:00 - 11:00 Thanksgiving Mass (UP Chapel)
11:00 - 11:30 Motorcade (UP campus)
12:00 - 2:00 Prayer then Buffet Lunch
(University Hotel, UP Diliman)
2:00 - 2:30 Motorcade (UP campus to Great Eastern Hotel)
3:00 - 4:30 Registration (Great Eastern Hotel)
4:30 - 6:30 Opening Ceremonies
for the Convention (Plenary)
7:00 - 9:30 Dinner Fellowship
- Messages of Solidarity from Alphan Chapters
- Inspirational Messages from Batch 1940 - 1960 Alphans
- Special Tribute
- Prayer for Departed Alphans
- Special Awards and Citations
- Entertainment Number

...DAY) CONVENTION PROPER
...30 Breakfast (Great Eastern Hotel)
...00 - 12:00 Break-up into Six (6) Groups for Sessions
on the following Major Agenda Items:
- Strengthening the Chancery and its Chapters
- Implementation of Chancery Programmes and Projects
- Promoting Alphan Excellence in Varied Professions
- Support to Resident Alphans and Sorority Sisters
- Preparation for Political Involvement
- Enhancing relations with national organizations/institutions

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch
2:00 - 1:00 Plenary: Presentation of Groups' Findings,
Proposals and Recommendations
4:00 - 4:30 Casting of Votes for Chancery Board Elections
4:30 - 5:30 Comelec Canvas
7:00 to 10:00 Gala Dinner
- Presentation of Convention
Highlights/Resolutions/Manifestos
- Awards and Citations
- Dinner and Entertainment Number
- Inspirational Messages from Batch 1970 - 2000 Alphans
- Video Presentation of Accomplishments of the
Chancery Board (2004 - 2006)
- Singing of the Alphan March

10:30 - 11:00 Special Surprise Number

OCTOBER 22 (SUNDAY)
7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast (Great Eastern Hotel)
8:30 - 9:30 Sunday Mass (Twin Hearts Parish,
West Triangle)
10:00 - 11:00 Conclusions
and Wrap-up/Post-Convention activity
11:00 - 11:15 Presentation of Newly-elected Chancery
Board by the Comelec
11:15 - 12:15 Message from the Resident Lord Chancellor
- Inspirational Messages from Senior Alphans
- Vote of Thanks by the Convention Chair
- Closing Ceremonies
- Exit Colors

12:30 - 2:00 Lunch (Great Eastern Hotel)
2:00 - 5:00 Sports Event to be followed by Awarding
of Trophies and Prizes
- Billiard games (Celebrity Sports Plaza)
- Badminton games (Badminton Best)
- Golf game (Capitol Hills Golf Course)

Special Thanks to San Miguel Corp.

Contributing editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson

Fashion

We've got game!

THE ADIDAS HERITAGE F/W '06 COLLECTION INCLUDES TRACK TOPS FROM THE "CITY PACK" SERIES, WHICH PAYS TRIBUTE TO SOME OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR CITIES LIKE NEW YORK

FASHION BUZZ
Hot, haute, hot news!

ANDY WARHOL

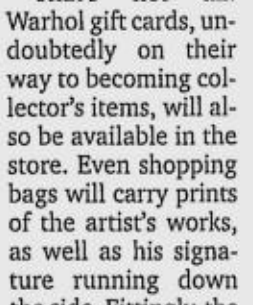
Shopping's poster boy

FASHION MEETS ART once again as international retail giant Barneys (shopping mecca to the rich, famous and ultra-stylish) celebrates the upcoming holiday season with a full-blown campaign revolving around iconic pop artist and now shopping poster boy Andy Warhol.

Barneys is definitely giving the star treatment to the eccentric artist with the silver wig. The holiday campaign encompasses visual display, direct mail and advertising. The retailer's Madison Avenue windows plus other flagship stores and coops will be all about Andy. The artist will even be featured in advertising for Warhol-related merchandise such as a collection of Levi's wax-coated jeans and a hooded sweatshirt with a banana print.

That's not all. Warhol gift cards, undoubtedly on their way to becoming collector's items, will also be available in the store. Even shopping bags will carry prints of the artist's works, as well as his signature running down the side. Fittingly, the store's shopping catalog will be dubbed "Happy Andy Warholidays!"

FASHION/ C4



liz claiborne
RUSTAN'S MAKATI / SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

THE STAN Smith Sleek W Rex in deep majestic from the Adidas heritage Fall-Winter '06 Sleek footwear collection

THE PRO Model Sleek W Lea in green from the sexy, fashionable and functional Adidas heritage F/W '06 Sleek footwear collection

Sweat it out in style

THE ADIDAS heritage line combines sport authenticity with street style and edge.

GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN sweats, hooded jackets, trainers and sneakers were reserved only for the gym or the track and field. With the advent of Madonna and Paris in their trendy tracksuits, or Sporty Spice (remember the Spice Girls?) in her funky sports-inspired getups, plus the constant search for comfortable yet stylish clothing, sportswear has evolved into fashionable basics that can be worn in different, albeit casual, ways.

Sports continues to inspire fashion (or is it the other way around?), and nowhere is this more evident than in Adidas Sports Heritage Original's latest collection. The Original line of clothing combines sports authenticity with street-style edge, and represents the vision and passion that Adidas founder Adi Dassler brought to the brand.

Originals is an authentic lifestyle brand with true fashion appeal. It marries not only comfort and style but also a vintage feel and a modern look. The collection features an innovative footwear concept that reinterprets Adidas Originals such as the Pro Model, Superstar, Stan Smith and Country 73.

The result: the Adidas Sleek series featuring four new models with a sexy and feminine appearance.

Then there's also the Premium Basics line, offering apparel and accessories for women who appreciate refined detailing and stylish construction. In keeping with the theme, all shapes and silhouettes of the line's easy-to-wear basics refer back to classic styles from Adidas' past.

And to complete the collection, there's City Pack, a series that pays tribute to some of the world's major metropolitan areas. Playing with colors, graphics and a mix of executions, the City Pack features cities like Paris, Buenos Aires, Moscow, Milan and New York on track tops.

The tops show the names and characteristic graphics of the cities and are coordinated with other apparel and footwear through the use of colors and graphics.

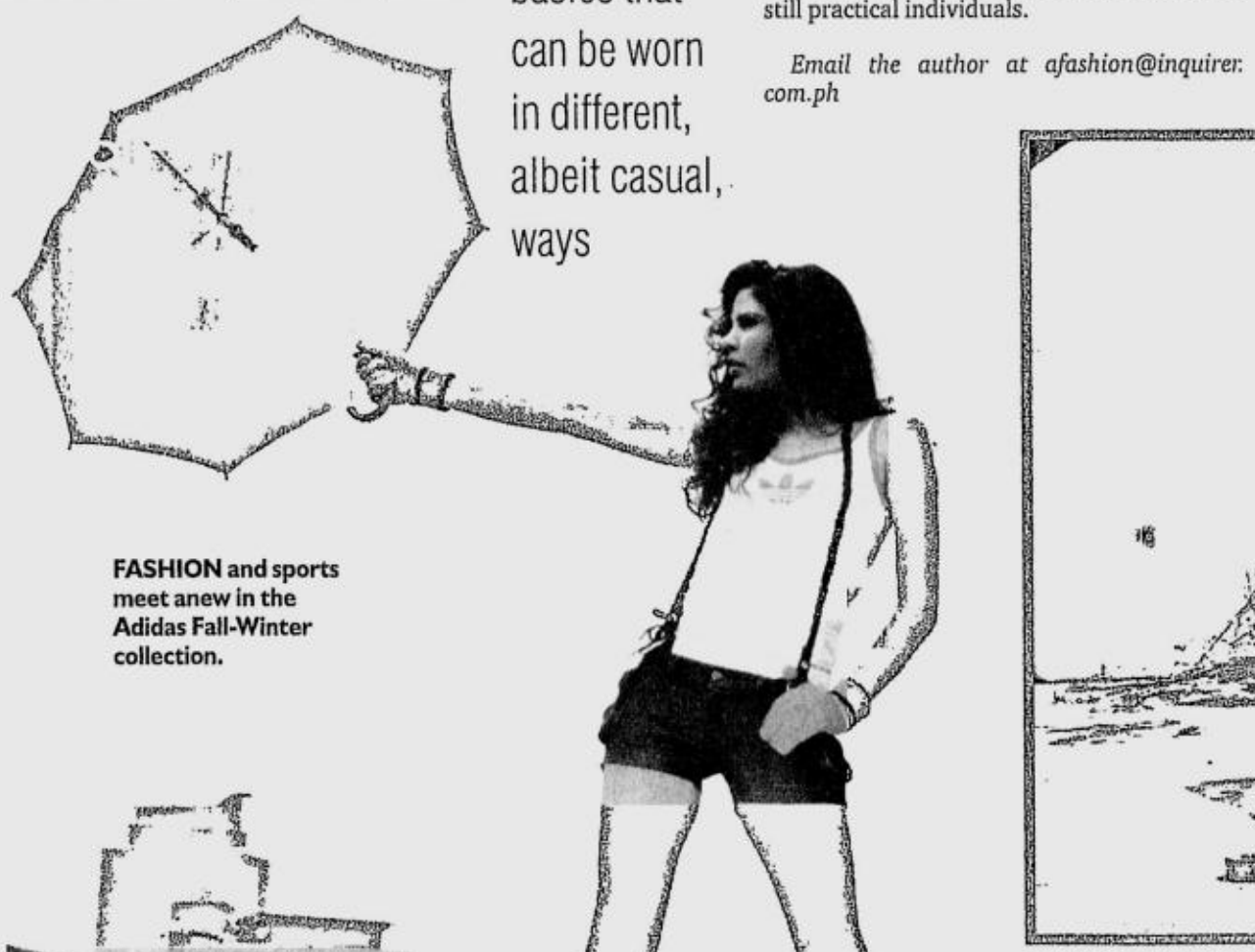
Nowadays, sweats, hooded jackets, trainers and sneakers can be worn outside the gym and as everyday casual wear. It's easier to combine style and comfort, fashion and function, thanks to Madge, Paris, et. al, and iconic sports brands like Adidas that continue to innovate and offer options for style-savvy but still practical individuals.

Email the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Sportswear has evolved into fashionable basics that can be worn in different, albeit casual, ways



FASHION and sports meet anew in the Adidas Fall-Winter collection.

TRACK jackets, tanks tops and shoes from the Sleek footwear line for women. Pro Model Sleek W Tex in light beige seen here

Photography Kai Huang using Nikon d2x
Styling Mela de Luna
Makeup and skincare Jigs Mayuga of L'oreal Paris
Hair Vianney Guese for L'oreal Paris Studio Line
Shot on location at The Podium roofdeck

ADIDAS HERITAGE ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL ADIDAS BRAND STORES INCLUDING 4/F, THE PODIUM
THE LATEST ADIDAS HERITAGE COLLECTION IS AVAILABLE AT THE ADIDAS CONCEPTS STORES AT G/F, ROBINSONS GALLERIA; G/F, ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA; AND 3/F, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA EDSA MALL

Electric indigo is now a major hue in the fashion color wheel, and is a current fave of celebrities and style icons as well

Indigo calling

BIOCHEMIST AND SCI-FI author Isaac Asimov suggested that electric indigo should not be regarded as a color on its own but merely as a shade of blue or violet. According to Isaac Newton, electric indigo is not considered a primary color nor a subtractive primary color and that the human eye is insensitive to its color frequency.

Tell those to Rendl which was the first to come out with the indigo B-bag!

The patent electric indigo color is a favorite among bagaholics!

Topshop's skittle-colored collection will not be complete without the electric-blue hue.

The ubiquitous color has become a part of fashion empires' color wheel.

With celebrities such as Gwyneth Paltrow, Janet Jackson, Nicole Richie and Rachel Bilson parading in cool azure clothes, you can bet that the shops will be raking in anything and everything electric indigo this season.

Even techie design has gone indigo this holiday season. Motorola has the new Motokrzr mobile phone. Reflecting the design language of the super-slim Motorazr, the Motokrzr exudes pure luxury with clean lines, precision detailing and premium materials shrouded within a distinctive metallic gloss front finish. Measuring a mere 16mm thin x 42mm wide x 103mm long and weighing only 3.6 ounces, the Motokrzr slips easily into your Rendl B-bag.

In new-age philosophy, electric indigo symbolizes the *chakra* or the third eye. If Asimov gave more recognition to this "shade of blue or violet," he would realize that there would be more to electric blue than meets the eye. *JB*

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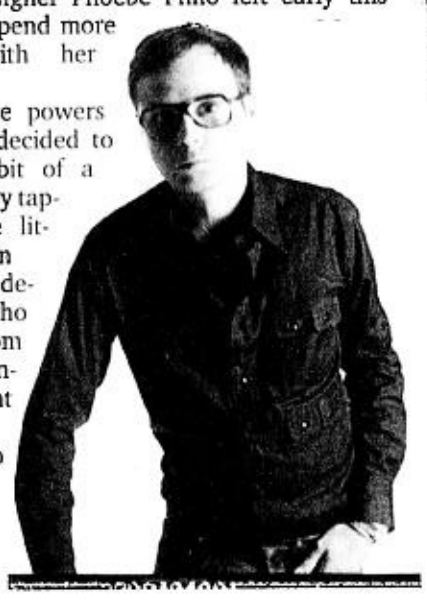
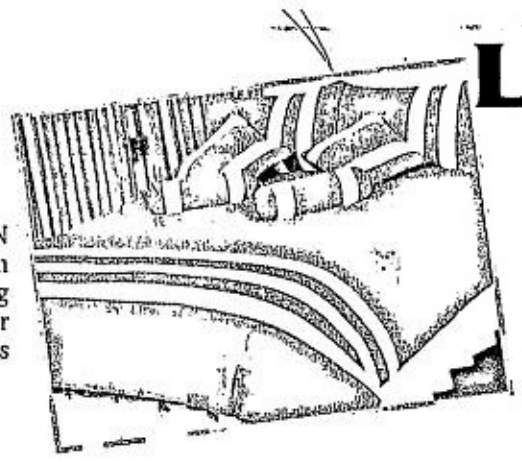
Designer merry-go-round

PAULO MELIM ANDERSON HAS BEEN named the new chief designer of Paris fashion house Chloe. In spite of the brand's mounting popularity and growing business, former head designer Phoebe Philo left early this year to spend more time with her family.

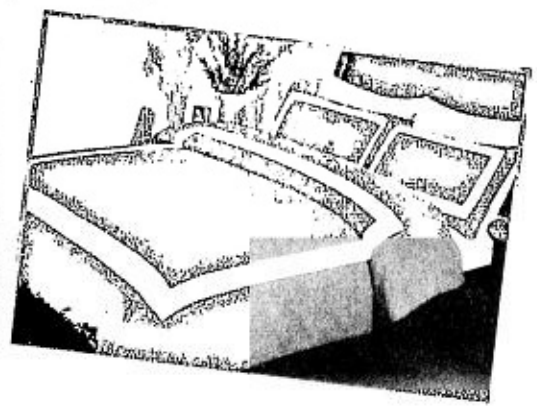


So, the powers that be decided to take a bit of a gamble by tapping the little-known Swedish designer, who came from a seven-year stint with Marni, to head Chloe's design team.



FASHION BUZZ

Hot, haute, hot news!



From ball gowns to beddings

IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE that prolific Rajo Laurel has branched out to yet another field of design. This time, the designer tackles the arena of home interiors by designing a line of bed linens for "Boutique," a brand manufactured by Canadian exclusively for Our Home outlets in SM malls.

For this exciting new venture, Rajo came up with three designs, which are inspired by clean lines and a fusion of ultramodern art and fashion. He also used a unique combination of denim and butter-soft chambray that feels as good as it looks.

"Why not sleep on what we wear?", says the ever-productive designer.

The bed sets include fitted sheets with matching pillowcases and a duvet, all packed in must-have denim bags that were also designed by Rajo. Watch out for the designer's other designs, which will be available in December 2006 and May 2007.

Kudos to Rajo for what promises to be another successful endeavor!

Fashion Oscars

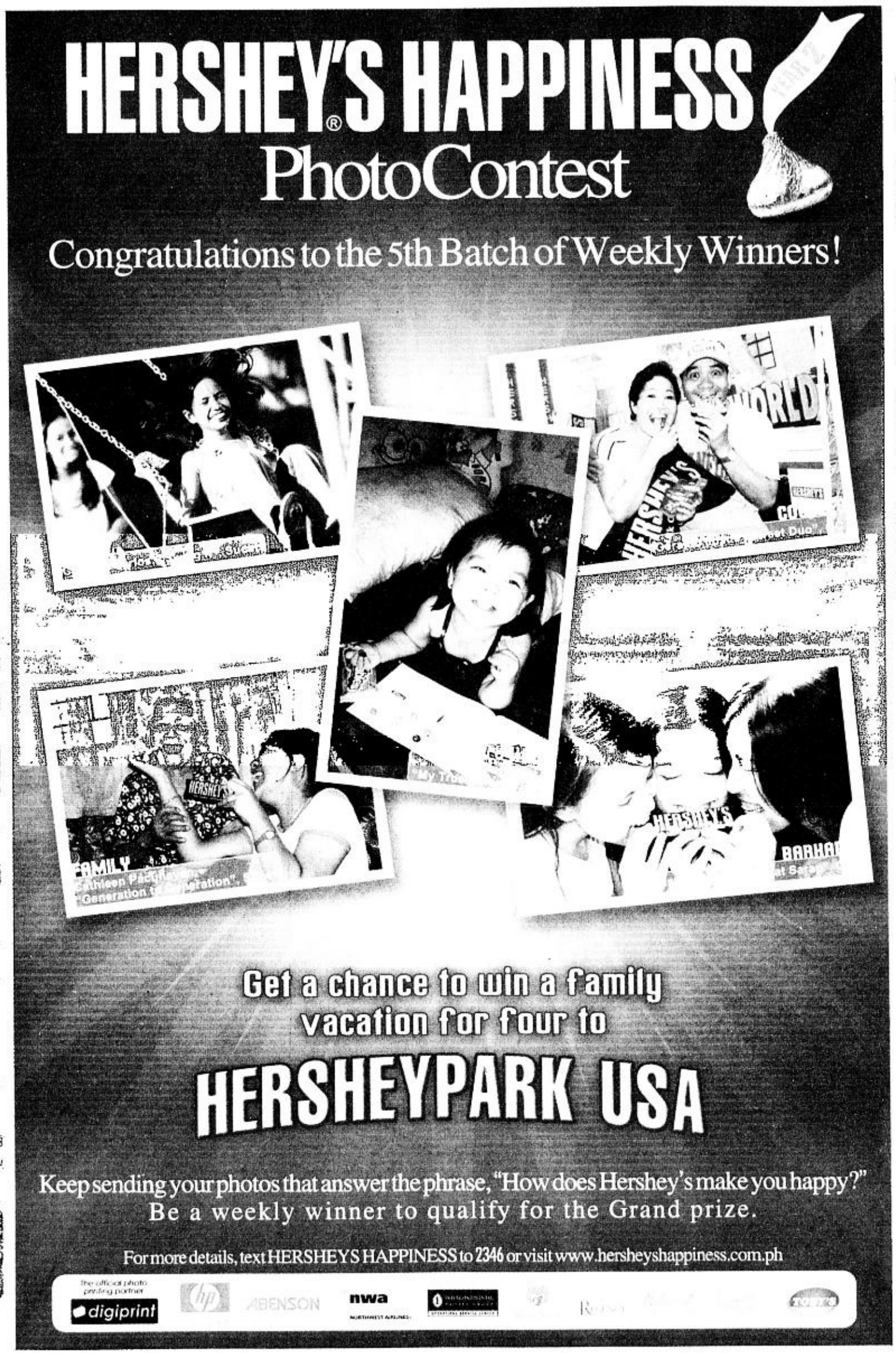
INQUIRER FASHION loves awards, especially when they're chic, sleek and fashion-related.

The British Fashion Awards 2006 is set on Nov. 2, with the British Fashion Council naming the nominees.

Kate Moss, Alek Wek and Erin O' Connor are up for the model award, while designers Giles Deacon, Luella Bartley, Justin Thornton and Thea Bregazzi are all vying for Designer of the Year.

What's new this year is the BFC fashion enterprise award which will be given to a developing designer business that showcases its collection during the London Fashion Week. The award is much coveted not just for the prestige it carries, but for the 50,000 pounds that crystal company Swarovski will donate to the winner.

HERSHEY'S HAPPINESS
PhotoContest
Congratulations to the 5th Batch of Weekly Winners!



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HONGKONG Disneyland
31 2nd Prize
winners of Sony PSP Value Pack Portable Unit 1005K Asian Version
31 3rd Prize
winners of Baby Package (inclusive of stroller, walker and blockset)
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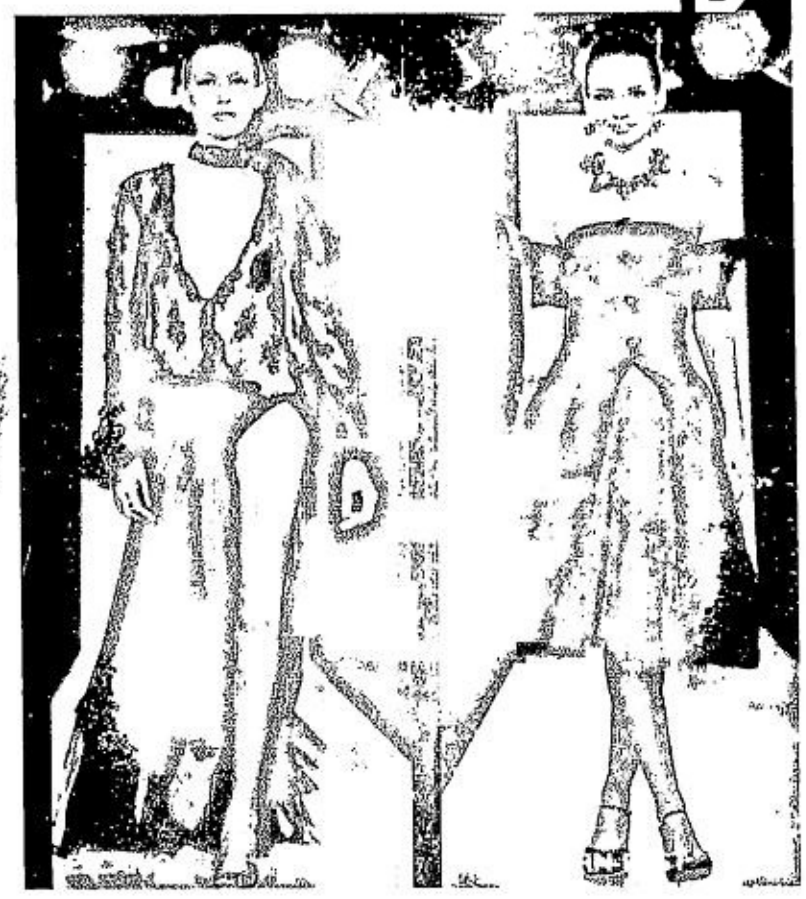
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

FASHION

Runway ABCs

In the front row of a fashion show, you hobnob with the emperors and queens of the fashion and social empires. At times the ripping apart happens here, even before the show begins!



YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND ME IN the front row of a fashion show. It's akin to having the best seats for the best view in a Roman coliseum, right before the lions rip the gladiators apart.

Jenni Epperson

In the front row of a fashion show, you hobnob with the emperors and queens of the fashion and social empires. At times the ripping apart happens here, even before the show begins!

But that's not the main reason I stay at the front lines. I have made it a habit to get a good view for the simple reason that I get to see the clothes better. I get to scrutinize the finer details of the ensembles up close.

For the ongoing Metrowear series, I found myself in the front row once more, but this time it wasn't reminiscent of a Roman coliseum, it was more like a high-school classroom (where as we all know, a lot of verbal ripping apart happens, too). That's because I revisited my ABCs in grading this segment's three designers, namely Lulu Tan Gan, Katrina Goulbourn-Feist and Jun Escario.

An 'A' for Lulu

My highest marks and animated thumbs-up go to Lulu Tan Gan, who gets an "A" for Astuteness.

Tan Gan is a connoisseur of contrasts. In this collection, she masterfully works with black and white palettes, soft and hard silhouettes, tailored and romantic structures.

She first opened with a series of menswear-inspired pieces. The male order: Tuxedo pants were paired with billowy-sleeved blouses, a piano-striped sash was used as a necktie, white skirts and blouses were showcased as work wear, a black cardigan was suited perfectly with matching black knit pants.

Tan Gan has once again proven that she reigns as the knit queen!

Her after-5 pieces consisted of haltered tuxedo-collar dresses that could double as blouses when paired with opaque tights. As for details, Lulu added sparkle with rhinestone buttons and metallic woven yarn.

The ensembles were inspired, a fresh take on office wear, and could very well go from the boardroom to the VIP room. This collection was ideal for the sassy working woman who works hard and plays harder, and not for the bundy clock, cookie-cutter existence types.

I must also note that Lulu also manufactures her own materials. Despite being able to produce any color, she kept her hues to a basic spectrum, keeping in mind what her market wants—basic pieces to mix and match with their existing wardrobe.

Overall, Tan Gan's collection was attuned to the working woman's needs and more. Her hip and practical designs signified a maturity that came from knowing good design and good business. She has managed to pull off high style and yet be in touch with her retail market.

She also works with a team of young professionals like Isha Andaya who helps her with marketing and product development, the better to feel the pulse of the market. For the Metrowear show, Lulu worked with Puey Quiñones for the styling and accessories. Puey will soon have his own men's line under Tan Gan and Solenn Heusaff.

RUNWAY/ D2

CATCH METROWEAR Series 3 featuring Randy Ortiz, Anthony Nocom, Ivarluski Aseron and Joey Samson on Monday, Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m., at The Loft in Rockwell.

MOTOROLA

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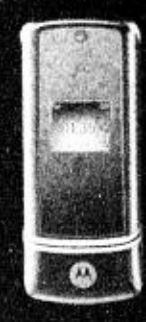

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MOTOROLA

Lulu Tan Gan rates an A for Astuteness

Jun Escario scores a B for his Bejeweled Beauties

Runway ABC

From page D1

Escario chalks up a 'B'

That's "B" for "Bejeweled Beauties." Glass stones, crystal beads, jeweled neck details—Jun Escario's collection was about sparkle and shine.

He certainly kick-started and spiced up the holiday season with his first piece on the runway: gold lamé skinny disco pants with beaded black tulle lace. Bring out the disco ball! In a season that usually showcases minimal accessories, somber colors and subtle elegance, Escario instead sent in a slew of models in thigh-baring gowns and see-through tops.

The collection's fabrics were tinted in sunset hues, while Vietnam silk with trapeze silhouettes were heightened with bejeweled neck details in front and back. Main details played with stretch tulle in skin tone with beaded crystals and glass beads, set as if they were floating on the back.

The final piece was a fiery-red ruffled gown with an exclamation point set in big crystal beads, worn by model Ria Bolivar.

Bearing in mind that Jun had three months to work on the pieces, I couldn't help but observe that some pieces didn't fit the models well. But, according to Jun, he had to make the sizes in medium (rather than the usual XS model size) so he could easily sell them to his clients.

Perhaps that big exclamation point detail on his gown represents more of a gasp! Is this the right attitude when creating a collection? To show ill-fitting gowns on the runway so they could be sold later on? Well, with so many clients from Manila to Cebu lining up for Jun's creations, it's a compromise that seems beneficial to the designer.

Goulbourn-Feist shows a 'C'

I give Katrina Goulbourn-Feist a "C" for "Cojones" and "Canary-Yellow Couture."

Maybe she is in a joyful place in her life, hence the shocking colors—green, violet and indigo, top-billed by canary yellow. Matching canary-yellow velvet leggings? Definitely not for the faint-hearted.

According to Feist, "I chose to work on solid colors for the outfits because I feel that rich colors are back and they allow the wearer to make a strong statement and elegant entrance. The outfits are more for cocktails, but they can be w
And if you take
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more daywear
A strong sta
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separates rath
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Katrina Goulbourn-Feist earns a C for Cojones and Canary-Yellow Couture

E-mail jfashi

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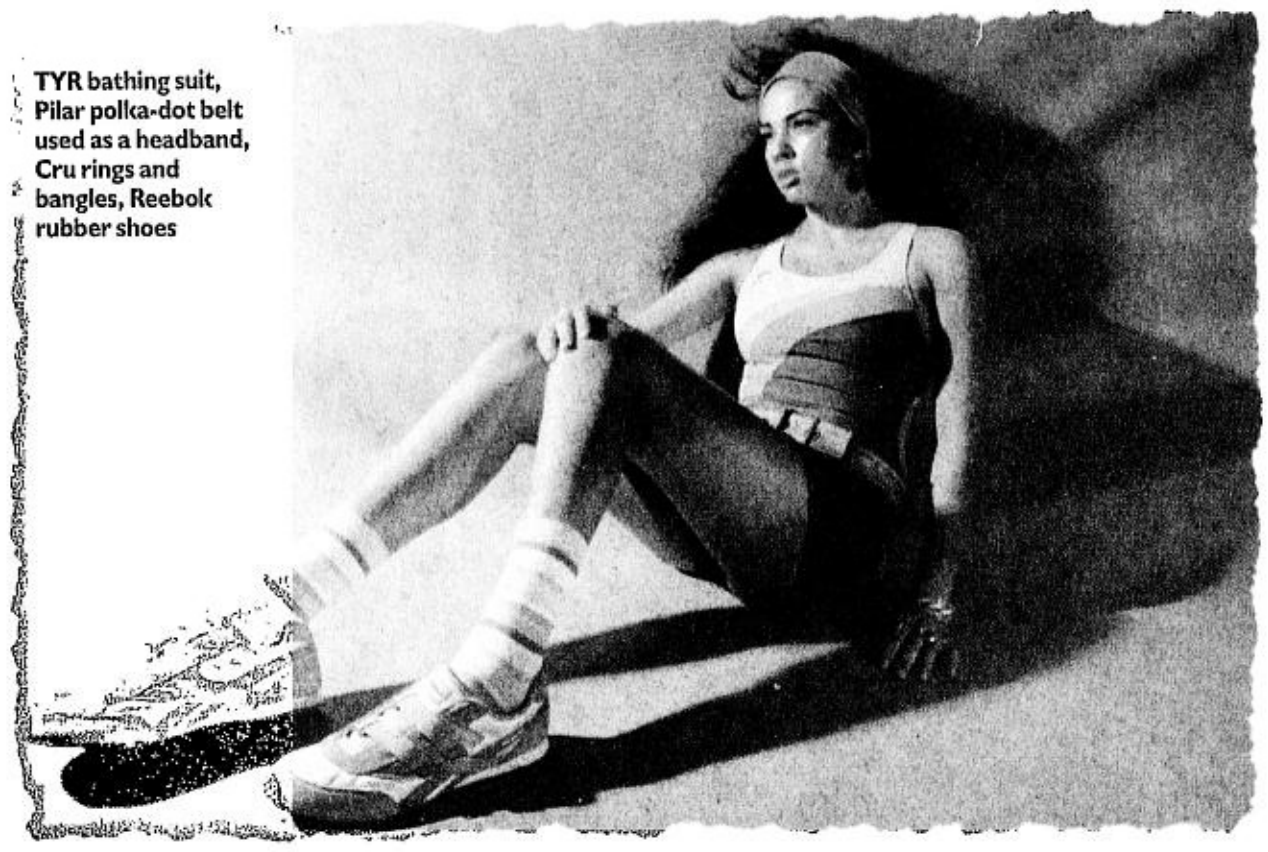

TYR bathing suit, Pilar polka-dot belt used as a headband, Cru rings and bangles, Reebok rubber shoes

REEBOK hoodie and shorts, Rockport slippers, Cru bracelet and necklace, Irene's Closet vintage shades, Reebok shoulder bag

Sportin' good

From page D4

about the high-tech materials that are being used for today's athletic wear. The basic cotton tee alone isn't only practical for the tropical weather; it also fits perfectly into the Filipinos' casual lifestyle. And what better to shod restive feet than comfy rubber footwear? It's not so much a trend as it's now part of daily lifestyle.

Sportswear as streetwear is about making it your own. It's about injecting your own personal style so that the most basic tee emblazoned with a Swoosh or those ubiquitous three stripes doesn't end up looking like the one lining the next guy's back.

Guys, for one, should stay clear of tees that are three sizes bigger than their normal body size because, seriously, wearing a T-shirt with a hem that grazes your knees looks cool only if you have a multi-platinum hip-hop album. Go lean!

And unless you're off to shoot hoops, keep your high-cut Air Jordans in your locker and get a style that's more suited for daily wear. Sporting goods stores now classify footwear according to the sport the shoes are intended for. Go straight to the "lifestyle" shelf; those shoes are made for walking. If in doubt, ask.

Accessorize. It may seem like a bit much to ask guys to do this, but we're not saying you hang blinding heavy-chain bling from your neck. We're thinking more along the lines of a nice belt, or a small silver chain on your belt loops, a simple watch or a leather or bead bracelet, or even an elastic wristband.

For girls, being the girls that they are, they have it easier as they know just how far a tee-miniskirt-sneakers combo will take them. It's not only an easy look, it also says effortless cute and sexy, quite a break from the unsettling high-maintenance baggage wrought by the image of overly made-up, stiletto-shod teen queens.

So, sport, what's your game?

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

VANS CONCEPT STORES- SM MEGAMALL, SM CITY NORTH EDSA
REEBOK- SM MEGAMALL, SM SUCAT, SM CITY NORTH EDSA, FESTIVAL MALL. ROCKPORT- GLORIETTA 3, SM CITY NORTH EDSA, ROBINSON'S GALLERIA, ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA, SM SOUTHMALL, FESTIVAL MALL, SM MANILA, SM BICUTAN, THE PODIUM.
ALL BRANDS INCLUDING K-SWISS, TYR, NAUTICA, UMBRO- ROYAL SPORTING HOUSE- ALI MALL, FESTIVAL MALL, THE SHOE SHOP ALABANG TOWN CENTER, THE SHOE SHOP AT THE POWER PLANT MALL IN ROCKWELL, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, AYALA CENTER CEBU, ISETANN-RECTO, ROBINSONS STA. ROSA, ROBINSONS LIPA, ROBINSONS PAMPANGA, WHY PAY MORE? MANDALUYONG, ALL WATCHES FROM NO CURFEW WWW.NOCURFEW.NET
MIMI, PILAR, IRENE'S CLOSET-ALL AT POWER PLANT MALL

S

rn for formal occasions, too.
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Goulbourn-Feist's collection
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clothes did not fall well as it
I believe presentation makes
f the story when introducing
A lesson is in order!

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K-SWISS T-shirt, Storm watch, K-Swiss rubber shoes

ON HER: Reebok T-shirt and rubber shoes, Cru brooch, Mimi belt. On him: K-Swiss T-shirt and rubber shoes, Time Force watch, Umbro rubber shoes

Photography Frank Hoefsmit www.frankhoefsmit.com
Graphic Design Maia Reyes
Styling Maureen Disini
Makeup Xeng Zulueta/Shu Uemura
Hair Nante Alingasa/Kiehl's Stylist Series
Models Juliane Bolzan/Look Models, Will Devaugn

Sportin' good

Sportswear has transcended the sweaty confines of the gym and has become an integral part of mainstream fashion

By Cheche V. Moral

THE RE-emergence of vintage-style athletic apparel and footwear in the past seasons is clear evidence that athletic wear is no longer just the domain of the fitness types.

That even big-name designers have jumped in on the bandwagon to come out with their own pricier takes on active wear either for their own labels or for popular sporting brands (Stella McCartney, Yohji Yamamoto, among others) only shows that sportswear has transcended the sweaty confines of the gym. It has become an integral part of mainstream fashion.

Juicy Couture itself almost single-handedly lifted the tracksuit from the closets of serious sprinters to the glitzy world of Hollywood starlets, who wore them with heels and pearls. Reebok has even announced that it's teaming up with Scarlett Johansson for a special line to be co-created with the actress.

In these parts, T-shirts and trainers have, for the longest time, been the uniform of choice of the young and the restless—and we don't mean just the grungy, slacker pack. Hipsters and creative types have also been known to wear their couture with their classic Vans (think Tim Yap). Many of the country's young designers, photographers and models also traipse around in their vintage-style sneakers of choice.

And why not? We're not even talking

SPORTIN'/ D3

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

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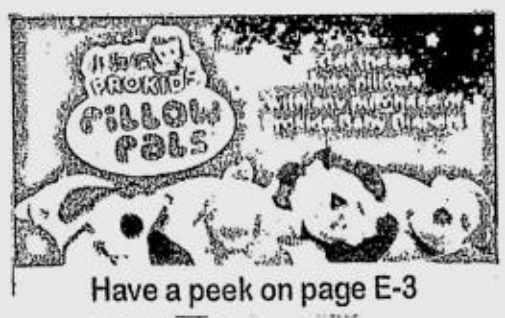
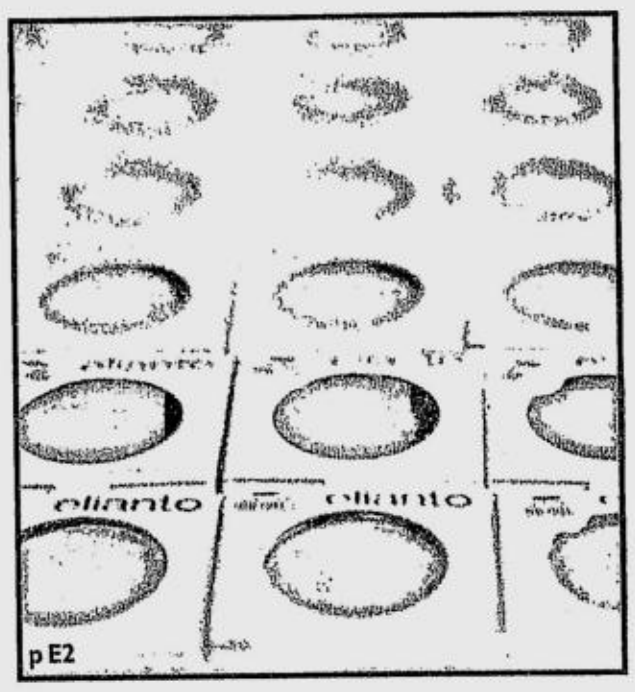


Have a peek on page E-3

BEAUTY



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Flawless in the tropics

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

THE FEW TIMES I HAD BEEN TO the Mall of Asia, I had seen this shop selling what I had thought was an Italian line due to its name, Elianto, which supposedly means "sunflower" in Italian.

I didn't really check the shop until recently. But as it turns out, the shop sells a Malaysian line of cosmetics made specifically to withstand humid weather for countries like the Philippines. It's very popular in Malaysia where it draws huge crowds.

Remember what a revelation it was when Asian women first tried makeup and skincare formulated especially for Asian skin? Since then, true-blue beauty fanatics have been shelling out extra bucks for skincare that specifically addresses common Asian woes like pigmentation. They also want foundations, concealers and powders that blend right in covering flaws while making the user look like she has the perfect skin.

The downside, aside from price, is that the Japanese and Korean brands were designed for colder weather. When the makeup would be used in countries close to the equator such as Malaysia and the Philippines, the makeup would streak, smear, go muddy, and slide off.

Elianto owners used Korean cosmetics technology while incorporating formulas so as to make the cosmetics withstand the humid tropical weather. The products are 60-80 percent cheaper than Japanese or Korean products.

The face and body lines are both impressive in quality and performance as if the owners had compiled all their favorite products and made the laboratory apply the necessary adjustments and improvements on the line, while insisting on a reasonable price tag.

Makeup picks

Unlike most cosmetics wherein the lipstick is the top seller, Elianto's best seller is its pigment-rich 3D eye shadows that pay only P269. They glide like cream but stay on like powder and don't crease. I used the Sweet Chestnut as my eyebrow filler and eyeliner as well.

Other favorite shades are Champagne (pale yellow gold), Hot Blue (indigo), and Summer Silver. They have eye shadow palettes ranging from P139 (holds four) to P469 (holds 20), a perfect gift for the makeup fanatic. You will go nuts with all the pretty colors. Mine holds six (P219).

The pure white FL two-way cake foundation is comparable to the top of the line Japanese brands. At P769, it blots out shine, evens out the skin tone and gives an airbrushed-like finish. Those with drier skin types will love the Cream Foundation (P599), reminiscent of the Prescriptives foundation in the way it gives a sheer finish that matches your exact skin tone.

As for the skincare products, I had a hard time choosing between the Pearl (whitening) and Green Tea (antiaging/damage repair and prevention) range.

The inspiration of the skincare line is clearly the top-selling Japanese line in the Philippines—from foaming cleanser to toner, essence, emulsion, cream and eye cream.

PEPPERMINT shower gel

First in my list is the green tea cleansing oil (P699), which is the only way to remove the matte-finished, water-resistant SPF 50 sunblock. Those with drier sensitive skin prefer the honey cleansing oil. The green tea range makes my skin glow with youthful health, while the pearl line gives me that luminous matte skin of Hong Kong movie stars.

SUN Block

As for body care, I used the Peppermint shower gel (P299) to cool me down during the long brownouts caused by Typhoon "Milenyo." It's a good waker-upper for the morning while Lavender shower gel helps you sleep well and relax at night.

I recommend the Citron and Lemon Shower gel for their bursts of energy especially to those who don't like the coldness of peppermint.

For body scrubs (P499), the Honey would appeal to those who love sweet scents. Green Tea has a refreshing fruity scent, and Nature Flower has a clean aroma.

Best bargains: The makeup brushes are real pony hair and range from P119 to P370 only. The nail polish in Deep Red is a clone of Chanel's Vamp Rouge Noir at only P99.

Check out the other vampy colors such as Queen and Wine, Shining Opal, Blue Purple and Shining Deep Purple.

Elianto has stalls at SM Mall of Asia, SM North Edsa and SM Clark Pampanga.

LINING your eyes with fun colors is an easy way to change your look

PICTURE FROM WWW.STYLE.COM

Great beauty Q&A

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE WHO e-mailed me through rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph. The truth is, most of my articles are really replies to what I get from the e-mail. And the suggestions and comments of readers are most helpful. So if the beauty section is any good, it is really because of the mail I receive.

Here are some very important beauty questions that I got recently. They touch on real concerns for every girl.

Ria Francisco-Prieto

I like my eyes and I want to accentuate them with color. What can I do that is fast and easy?

Knowing what you want to accentuate is good. That in itself makes the solution fast and easy. Eye pencil with color would be the best. Try Fashion 21's eyeliners. They come in fun colors that won't be too much of a burden on your pocket. It would be great to have the eyeliners in your poach for a fast day-to-night look. Lining your eyes for a night-out would be a great addition to your day look; it would easily dress your look up.

I am a mother who hardly has time to get facials or treatments. What can I do at home?

Time is actually a luxury not everyone can enjoy. If you want to do something for yourself that doesn't necessarily mean stepping out of your house, then learn to pamper yourself at home. If you do not suffer from acne, it would be good to use a facial scrub like Ponds' when washing your face. The Body Shop has great masks you can use to tighten and condition your face. Also remember to moisturize everyday. The 15-minute rituals you do for your skin will do a lot for your complexion and self-esteem. Taking care of yourself doesn't have to mean leaving the four walls of your house. It can be as simple as taking the time out.

What is one product everyone should have?

Personally I think everyone should have a petroleum jelly. This inexpensive treatment goes a long way. You can use it to remove eye makeup and keep your lips soft by applying it every time you need it. It conditions not only your lips put also works well on your soles! Try lathering your feet with it before sleeping, then wear socks and wake up to softer soles. Also you can do the same with your hands if they are rough. Sometimes I even go overboard by brushing it a little on my eyebrows when I want to keep them in place.

How important is a good brand when it comes to eye shadow? I want to try some of the looks that I see but I earn only minimum wage and can't afford expensive eye shadow. What should I do?

Makeup is expensive but not all brands are costly. My suggestion is that on your free time go to the malls and make use of the free makeover the counters offer. Have them apply a different shade on every time so you can get to know what color looks best on you. When you decide on your favorite color, the color that makes you look best, then that narrows things down. You should then just get that shade, no more no less. Because seriously, even if you could afford to buy all the colors on the spectrum, you wouldn't be able to use them all, simply because some colors wouldn't work on you. Get whatever brand is right for your budget. Use the tester and if you like how it feels on your skin and how it looks when applied, then the brand won't matter. That's the truth.

I have sensitive skin. What moisturizer is best for me?

Ask your dermatologist because s/he can point out what ingredient is irritating you. If a dermatologist is not in your budget, try using 1:1 full cream milk and water. On a small cup, mix what you will need on your face and leave the mixture in your ref. With the use of a cotton ball spread onto your face. You will feel some tightening. Wash off after.

Robinsons Department Store

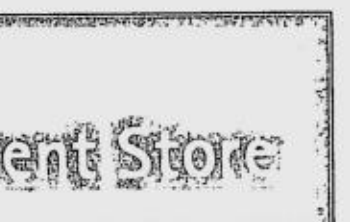
Candles & Flowers

Red shell mini hurricane candle

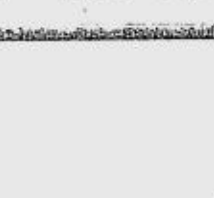
Gumamela and orchid 3 pc. candle set

Violet orchid ikebana

Lotus vase



Star candles


Orchid candles

Tulip orange and yellow mini candles with wax base

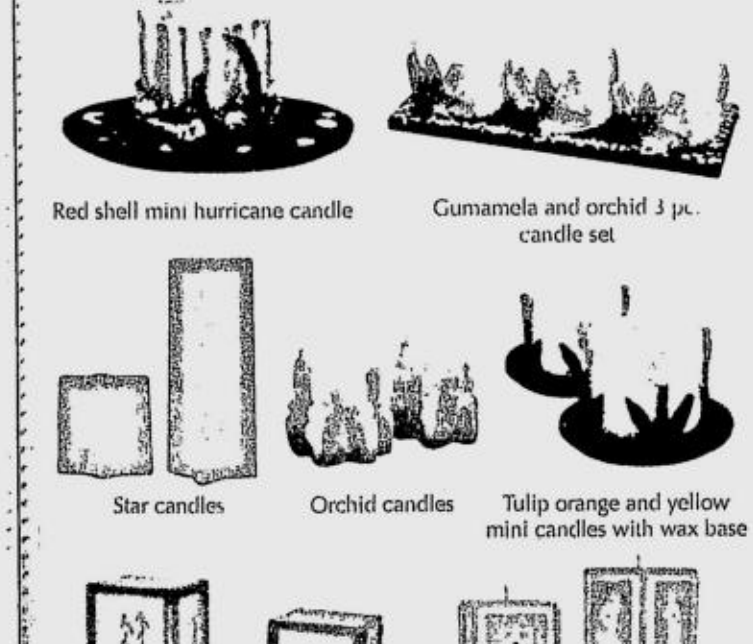
Handmade green lilly and lotus flower set

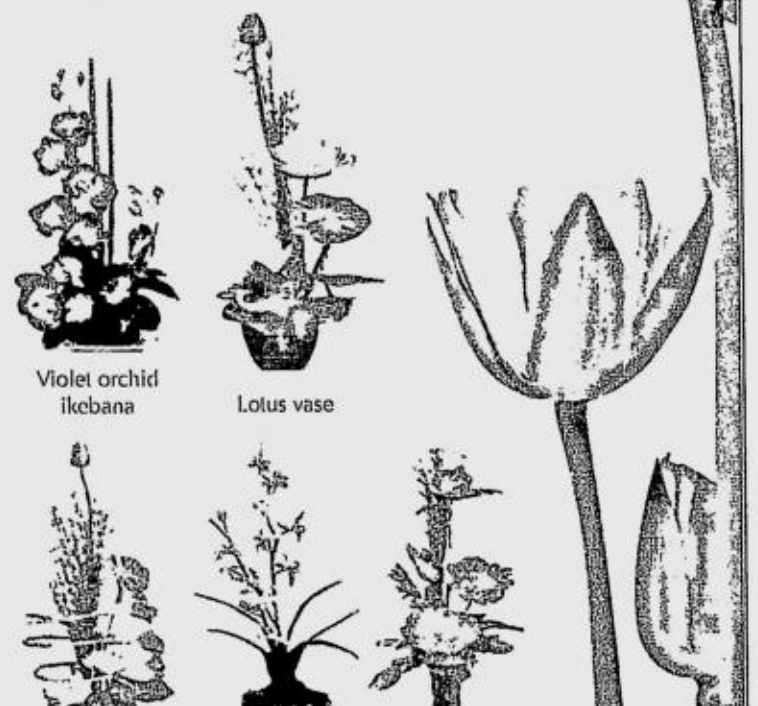
Oncidium star orchids

Handmade wild flowers set

Oriental 3 pc. candle set

Floral 3 pc. candle set with wax base


Candles with gold rimmed glass holders



Roses, orchids and lilies arrangement

Yellow orchid ikebana

Rose basket

Hydrangeas

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BEAUTY STEAL

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Hype Duo Intensive Whitening Soap with Glycostech is a clinically proven, dermatologist-tested skin whitening system that works wonders on your skin. It's fast, safe and effective. In just two weeks, skin becomes whiter by more than 50 percent. The soap further increases its effectivity with continued use, making your skin smoother and more glowing each day.

Hype Duo Intensive Whitening Soap is infused with the powerful combination of Vitamin C, "The Wonder Anti-Oxidant," and green papaya enzymes, "The Great Exfoliant." The brand completes the package by using only state-of-the-art technology in skin care—Glycostech, a French patented technology that uses nanosphere (micro-molecular processing) to allow quick penetration of Vitamin C and green papaya enzymes into the skin so the soap can work best from the inside.

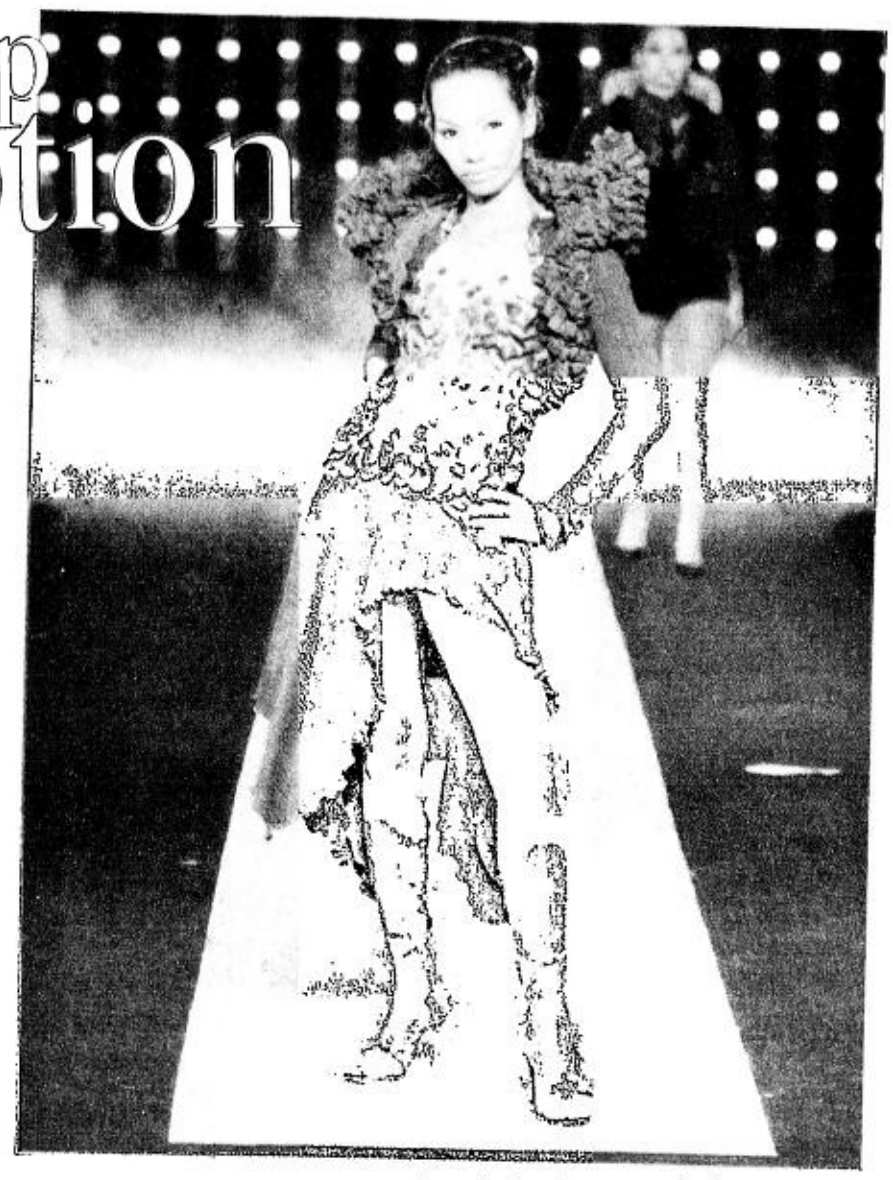
Hype Duo Intensive Whitening Soap is available in all major supermarkets and department stores nationwide. Visit www.skinwhiteningstudy.com, e-mail info@awi.com.ph or call 8402662.

Makeup in motion

The Mega design contest shows what maquillage works on and off the runway

By Carla Sibal
Contributor

FOR ONE EVENING, the finalists for Mega's 7th Young Designer's Competition took Manila to the future. The six designers—Dave Estein Quijano Panganiban, Joanna Allas, Eli Alexander Englis, Randall Solomon, Veejay Floresca, and Aries Inigo Lagat—showed "Fantasmic" couture, which left the crowd impressed.



ONE of winner Aries Inigo Lagat's made-for-the runway looks

The models looked like moving sculptures on the runway, the clothes' lines and silhouettes etching distinct images in the mind. The clothes were more like art pieces, really.

The different looks exemplified the best faces of fashion. The "Wow factor" didn't just come from the clothes though, but the total look that the models had as they took every step and struck every pose.

Each designer wove intricate concepts behind the clothes and the faces they exhibited. In tune with the futuristic theme, the maquillage for the evening took to the idea as well. Iridescent foundations and eye-catching shadows "made" the look. Bronzers on the face and body lent both an earthen yet ethereal aura to the catwalk.

Luminescent shimmers were used to highlight the models' features in different degrees. "I wanted the model's features highlighted; the idea was to bring out their beauty rather than mask it," said Floresca about his collection.

Other designers used makeup to boost the message of their creations. Some desired a firmer look; certain features were highlighted. "I wanted the focus to go on the eyes so I specified that they (makeup people) make them dark and smoky, and the lips very minimal," Lagat said. "I wanted a strong but still feminine look,"

HAIR styling takes a chunk of the time backstage.

The makeup would be entirely wearable for women out there, given a few adjustments on special occasions. Sometimes, you may just want to feel different or extra-adventurous for the evening so you may try going for an eye-catching outfit.

As metallic tones gain popularity across the board, from fashion shows to beauty bars, they may be the choice for those seeking "accents" apart for the usual matte hues that make color recede. They are certainly the perfect palette for those wanting to highlight certain features as well as making a distinct impression.

Also working well off the ramp are "bronzers." They are excellent to use when you want to add an extra glow to your face, or if you have a bit of contour. You need not be concerned with them darkening your features, just use them on the right areas and don't put them all over.

Another neat idea would be accenting the eyes with darker shadow. Smoky eyes are a great way to take your profile out of the usual earth tones and give your face a special drama. They work best with a nude palette. But one has to be very careful not to overkill this look.

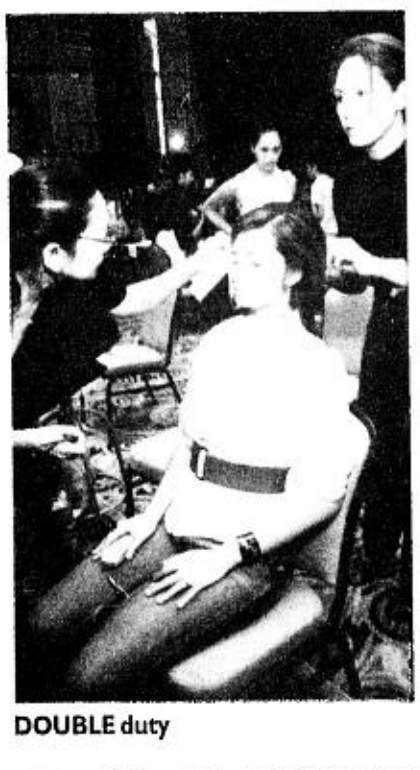
Just try to find a balance. Pick your best feature and draw attention to it, be it your eyes or your lips. You don't have to be a model to try something new.

USING a lip brush to fill in lipstick for precision

MODEL and makeup artist have to work as a team.

MAKEUP artist working on model's eye shadow

LINING the lips to define their shape

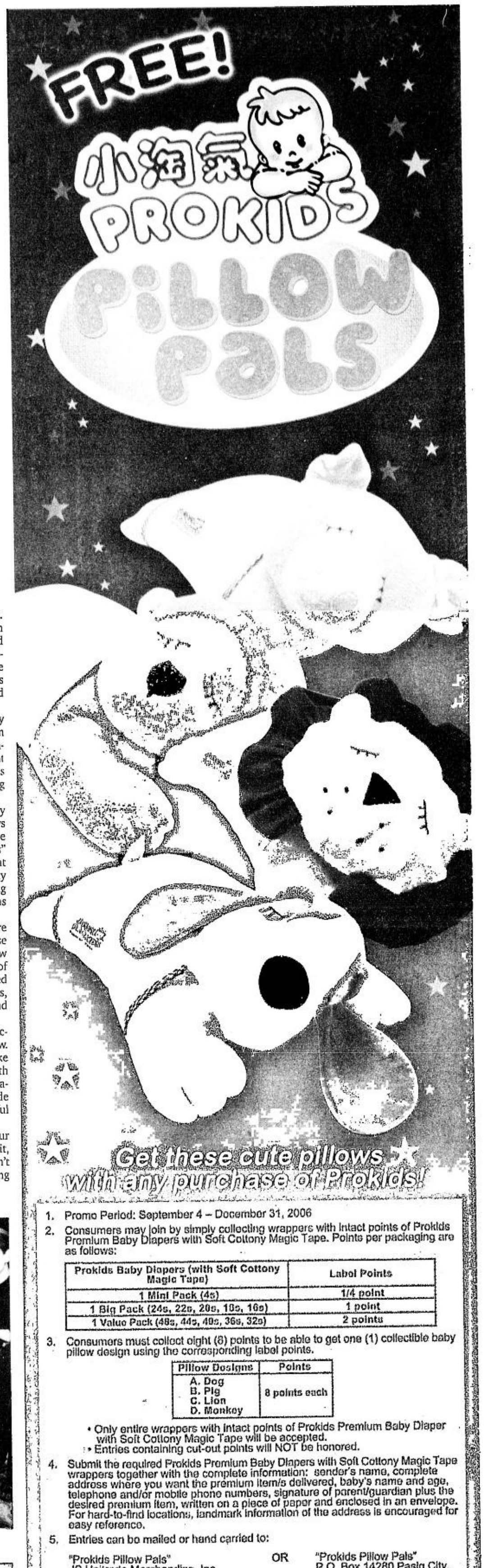


DOUBLE duty

MODEL fixing her lashes

FALSE eye lashes are a catwalk must-have to open up the eyes.

FUN behind the scene



Picture perfect

Photography by Marta Araneta
Makeup by Angellque Dinglasan
Hair by Dennis Dave Tolite

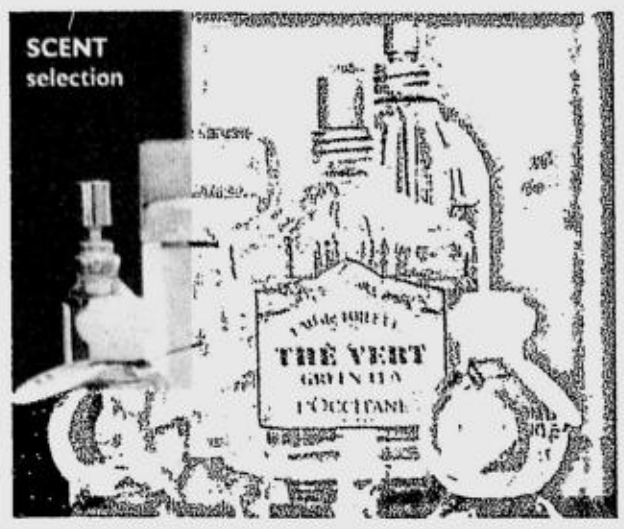
By Marta Araneta
Contributor

AS ONE OF THE most in-demand models, the striking Yasmin Bauman is expected to be self-centered and stuck up. Although her shoot had been scheduled during lunchtime, Yasmin arrived promptly with a cheerful smile spread across her face.

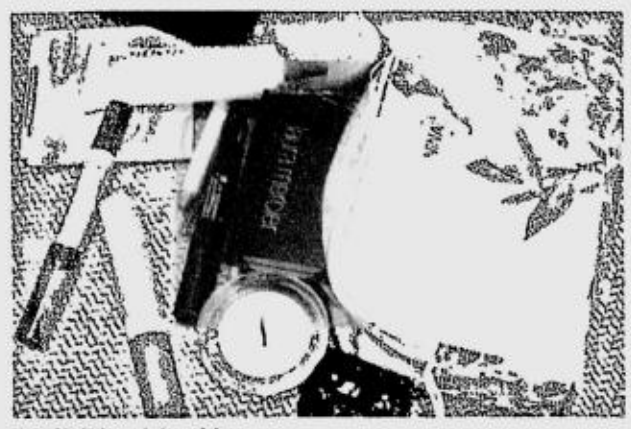
Not only is this model a statuesque beauty but she also exports her own line of jewelry which she designs. Full of character and life, Yasmin is beautiful both inside and out. She is a perfect example of how healthy living keeps a woman attractive and youthful.

How do you maintain your beauty?

I love nice-smelling shower gels, just for the smell. After showering, I love the Virgin coconut lotion. I also love coconut oil. It's very healthy if you have a tablespoon a day... It's apparently the only oil that is not bad for you cholesterol-wise, and when you use it to cook, it doesn't change chemically to saturated fat. I'm very into nutrition, I love researching it. Ground flack seed is also a good essential fat and internally good for your skin. Hydrating yourself with water, eating all your vitamins through fruits and vegetables and taking a multivitamin are the important first steps toward natural beauty. I also have some general rules I try to follow. Sleep is incredibly important and eight hours a day



SKINCARE



INSIDE her *kikay* kit

She is a perfect example of how healthy living keeps a woman attractive and youthful

is a must. I don't like to wear too much makeup. It really damages my skin. I always keep myself well-hydrated. I don't smoke. Also, if I know I'm going to be in the sun, I use Clarins factor 15 moisturizer, but living in the Philippines I'm either in a car, my apartment or in a mall, rarely in the sun.

Are you for the sun or against it?

I love the sun, but I don't like bathing in it. I'm very cautious about sun damage. When I was younger, I used to sunbathe a lot and got very dark, but the tan simply faded and I would end up the same fair person anyway. So I figured, what's the point in spending hours sunbathing in the first place? Instead, I enjoy sitting in the sun to get a healthy dose of daylight, although I do like it slightly shaded. I don't have a particular favorite block, although I'm careful about the factor. I use nothing less than 30 SPF. As for self-tanners, I've tried the brand San Tropez. It worked well for me but it's a hassle to put on and it doesn't last for a great length of time.

BEAUTY loot

Do you have a fitness routine?

Absolutely! My general fitness includes going to the gym twice a week. It is a one-hour routine: Spend around 40 minutes on the treadmill and 20 minutes lifting weights. Plus being a bit of a homemaker, I run around cleaning the house. The countries I grew up in were more self-serving without the luxury of maids, so now even being in the Philippines by habit and partly by enjoyment, with the pride of looking after your home, I spend a couple of hours a day running around cleaning the house, which is actually good exercise with all the crouching, stretching, bending, reaching, etc!

What fragrances do you like to use?

During the day I love to use either Eau de Vanilliers, the Vert Green Teat by L'Occitane or Dolce and Gabbana Light Blue. When I go out at night I use Dolce and Gabbana Light Blue, Eau de Vanilliers or Must de Cartier.

For either day or night, the Body Shop perfume oils are great and conveniently fit right into your handbag. My favorite scents are Vanilla, Japans Musk and Indian Gardenia.

Do you have a skincare regimen?

I do take care of my skin. I use a cleanser to take off my makeup in the evenings, followed by a couple of sprays of toner, before applying moisturizer. My favorite brand is Dermalogica. I don't often enough give myself home facials but if I did, I would use the Dermalogica Exfoliator, the Dermalogica Hydrating Mask or my favorite mud mask of all time, Nu Skin Mud Mask. I know I should be doing my routine in the mornings as well, but sometimes I get lazy and only do it at night.

Do you see any professional skincare specialist?

I've never actually been to a dermatologist. My femininity is tested as I don't ever have facials or manicures. But I do know the effects of facials on your skin are positive, so I really should start.

What is your favorite skincare product?

Moisturizer! I have really dry skin and I actually need it! I use either Day Nu Skin Moisturizer or Dermalogica.

Who does your hair?

My friend in London is a very successful freelance hairstylist and, whenever I go back, the first thing I think of is her doing my hair. If I just need a simple blow-dry, I go to Bruno's Barbers, but if I have a special occasion, I go to Emphasis Salon.

How do you take care of your hair?

I hardly use any hair product... I use Kerastase shampoo and conditioner for dry hair and, afterward, I use Citre Shine as a de-frizzing hair serum.

Why do you love your hair long?

Because it suits me. It's nice to be able to choose when you want it up, down or styled. Short hair can look amazing on certain face shapes but you could tire of that look quickly.

What is your makeup style?

For everyday makeup I use a Benefit It Stick Concealer for under my eyes and a pink cream blush from Stila. For more daring days I might use black eyeliner and mascara from Lancôme. My favorite powder that looks white, a translucent powder that can brighten up any face, is by Laura Mercier. And, of course, my Elizabeth Arden eight-hour cream skin protectant as a lip balm that I put on about five times a day. It is quite addictive, but it also can be used for dry skin, burns and cuts. I also love Benefit Bright Stick, simply to brighten up my eyes as an eyeliner or eye shadow. When I go out at night I smudge my eyeliner to darken my eyes a little more. I put on mascara and a little extra blush.

What beauty items can you just not live without?

I have incredibly dry skin and it shows, especially on my hands. So my mom is always trying to get me to use hand cream. I am currently using Waleda. My concealer is a must... I have terrible under-eye circles!

HAIR care

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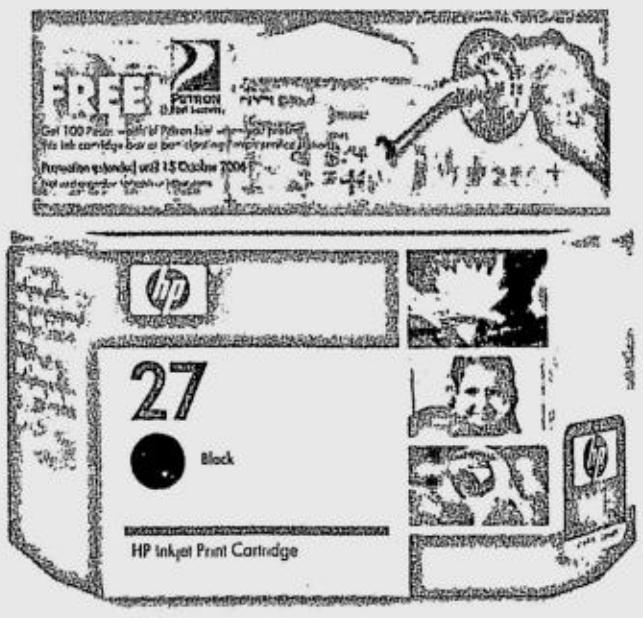

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LIFESTYLE

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BLACK long-sleeve top and pinstriped shorts

Boyish but sexy

RUFFLED AND LACE TOPS, CUFFED SHORTS, tailored jackets and slim-fit pants are showcased in the latest fashion collection of Details.

The collection offers versatility to achieve the stylish "mismatched pantsuit look," the key element of the collection.

Details has branches at the Power Plant Mall, Alabang Town Center, Eastwood City, SM City Pampanga, Greenhills Theater Mall, Festival Mall and at The Ramp inside Crossings Department Store in Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

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BREATHES
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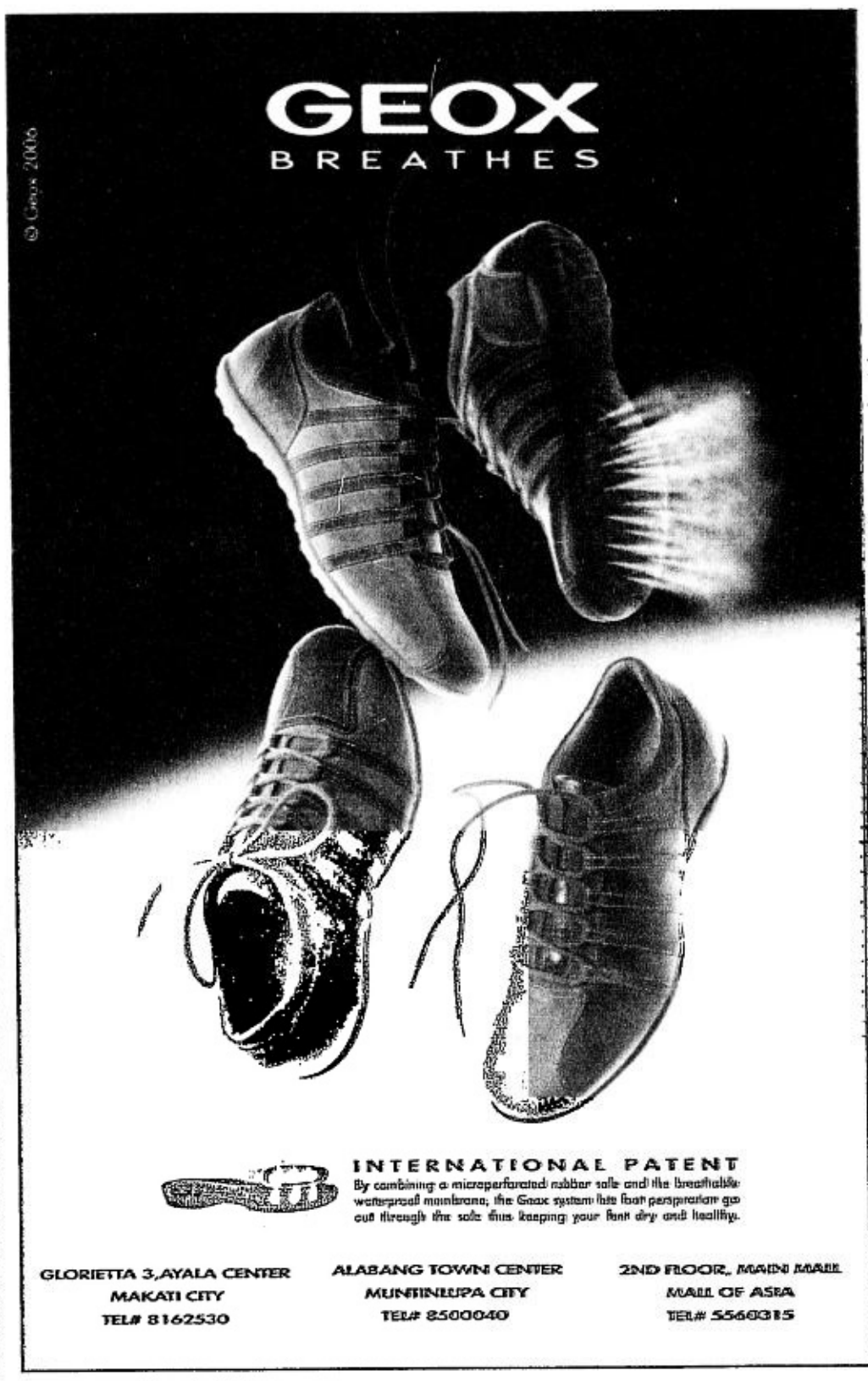

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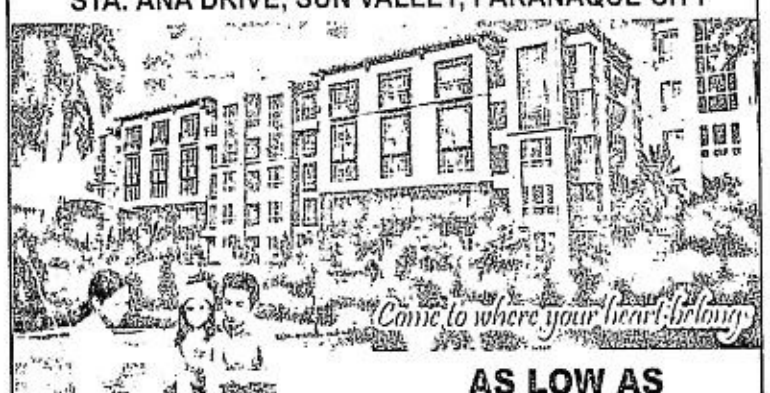

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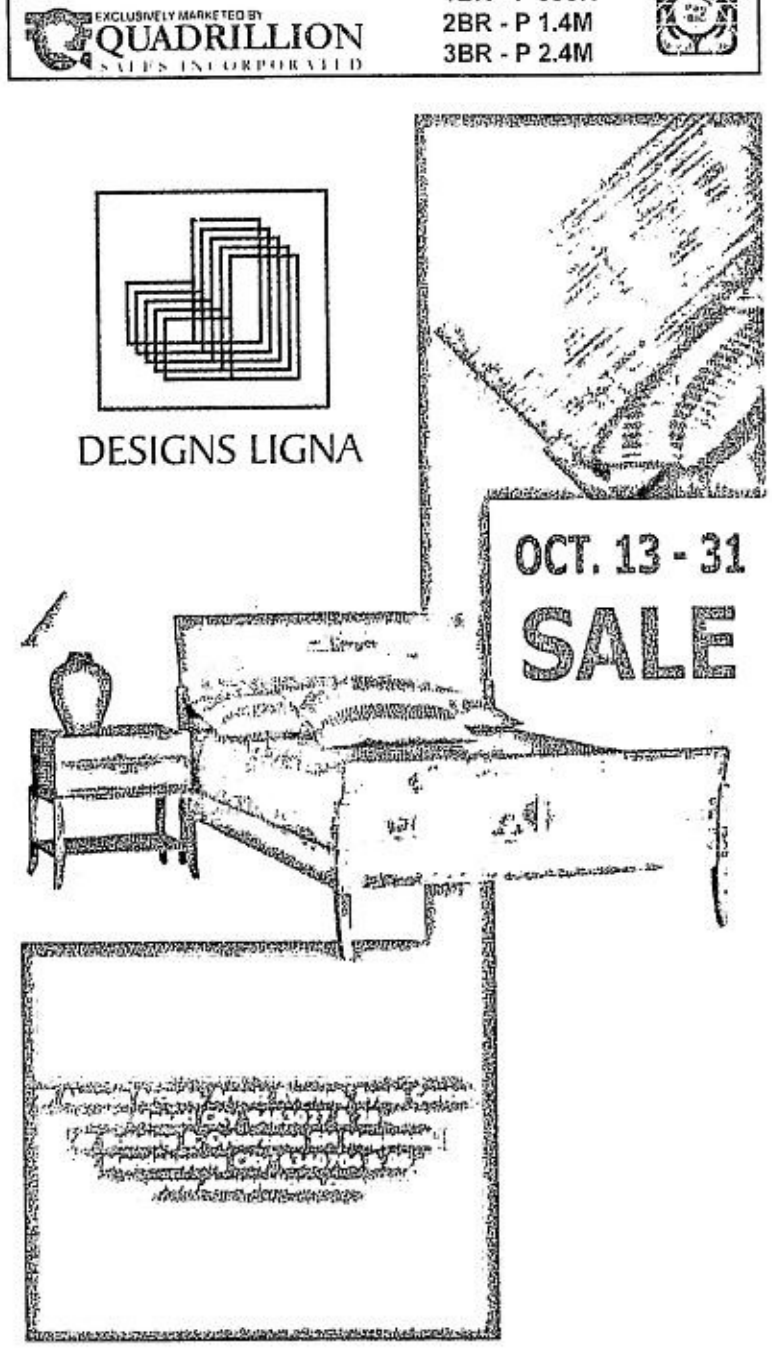

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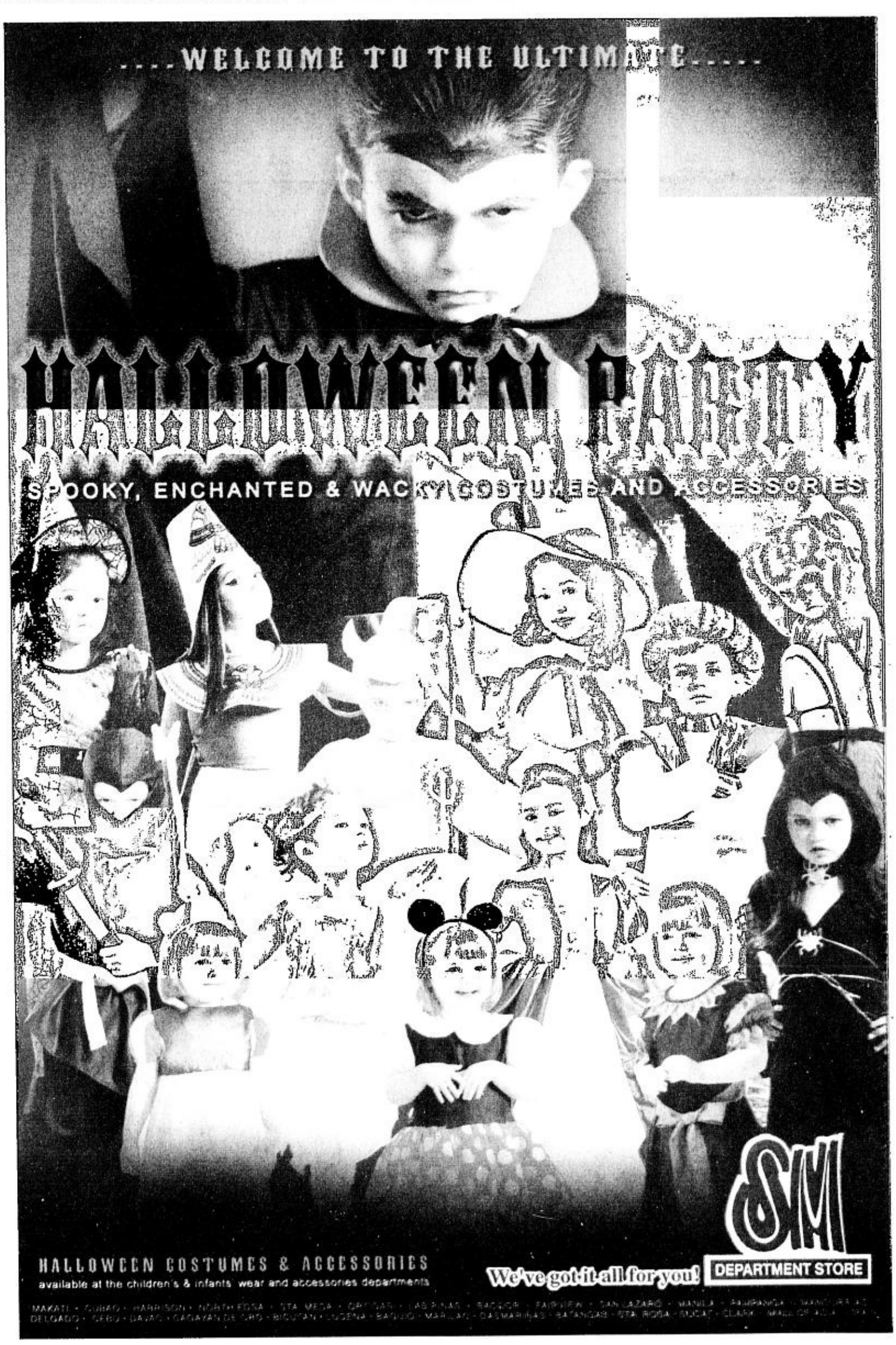

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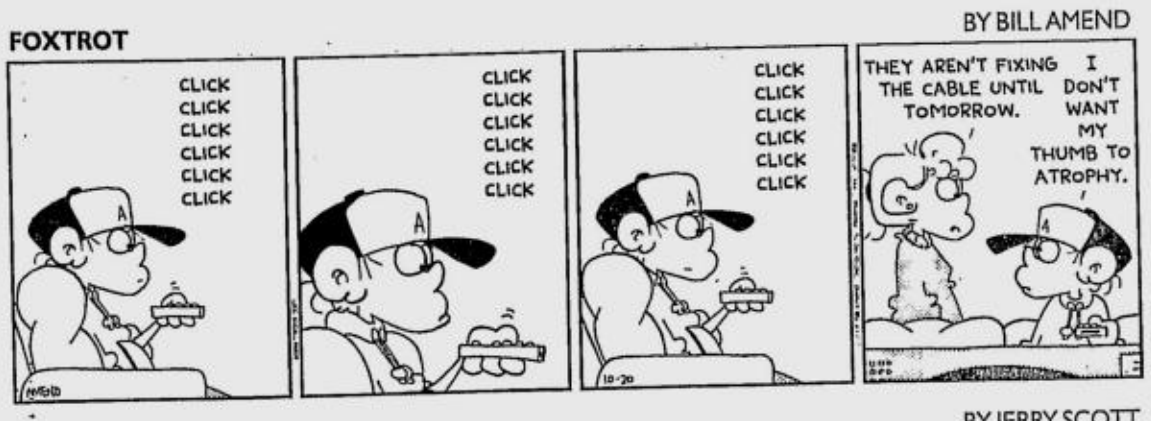

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

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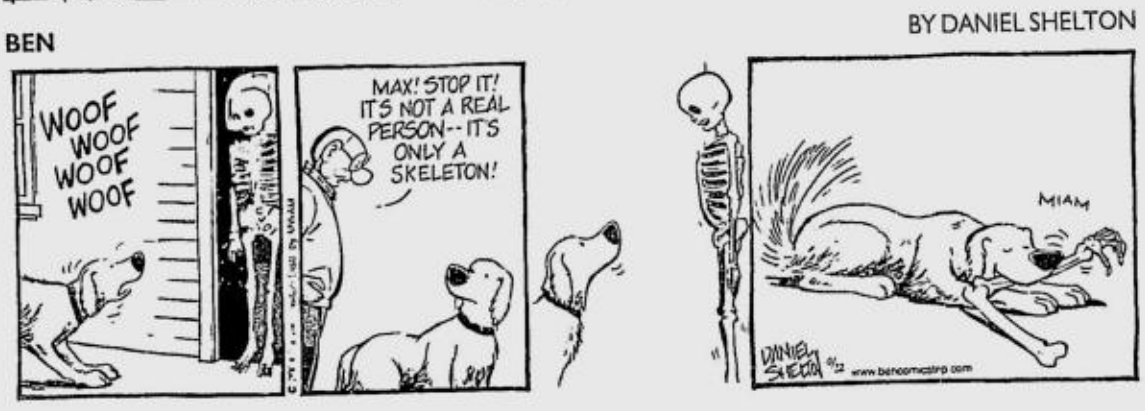
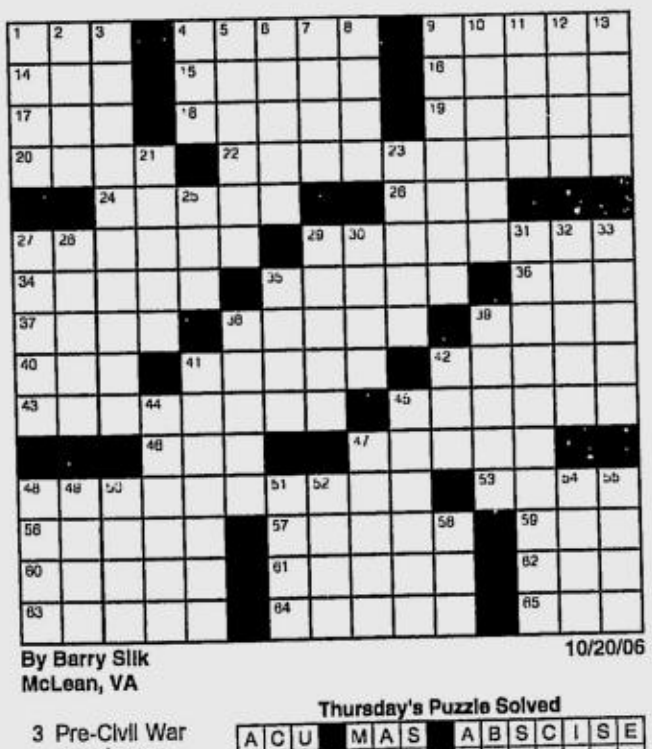
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD



By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

10/20/06

ACROSS
1 Clampett patriarch
4 Pint-sized
9 Ships water
14 "Evil Woman" rock grp.
15 City where Galileo taught
16 Baffled
17 Wed. follower
18 Laotian or Mongolian
19 "A League of __ Own"
20 Exhale sadly
22 Bad luck, maybe
24 Rabbits' kin
26 Tic-tac-toe win
27 Member of the lighting crew
29 Career officer's kid
34 "Giant" ranch
35 Arctic ice sheets
36 End of pay?
37 Customary extras, briefly
38 Toyota hybrid
39 Night in Nevers
40 Compass pt.
41 Gargoyle
42 __ cum laude
43 Most hoarse
45 Stringed instrument
46 Part of NY's S.I.
47 Surrendered
48 Throat medication
53 Mmes., on Mallorca
56 __-Saxon
57 Bad ball to be behind
59 Gallery display
60 Orchid tuber
61 Doesn't go
62 Service charge
63 Creates bootles
64 Paris subway
65 Light knock

DOWN
1 New York team
2 K-12, in education
3 Pre-Civil War pro-slavery northerners
4 Mineral spring
5 Original copy
6 See-ya, Pedro
7 Feast on Maui
8 Fritz or k.d.
9 Dugout youngsters
10 Beating like a poet's heart
11 Oh yeah, right
12 Solo's princess
13 Channel Island
21 Weapon handles
23 Residences
25 Actor Stephen
27 Actress Garson
28 Nationwide rival
29 Elite category
30 Decisive defeat
31 Preliminary sketch
32 Skirt shape
33 Mongol invader
35 Brothers' titles
38 Banana skins
39 Archibald and Thurmond
41 Chess pieces
42 Start of term?
44 Young porker
45 Gentle breeze
47 Bandleader Xavier
48 Wine barrel
49 Son of Judah
50 Hybrid fruit
51 Tom Sawyer affirmative
52 Sacred act
54 Surface size
55 Stair part
58 General on a Chinese menu

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	C	U		M	A	S		A	B	S	C	I	S	E
B	E	N		A	L	L		C	R	E	A	S	E	S
A	L	D	E	N	T	E		C	A	N	D	L	E	S
S	L	E	E	T		W	R	E	N		S	E	R	E
H	O	R	R	I	D			I	N	C	A			
			L	O	S	E	N	O	T	H	I	N	G	B	Y
C	A	Y			L	A	S			D	E	E	R	E
A	L	I	E	N	E	E		D	R	A	W	N	I	N
R	A	N	T	O			O	U	I			E	T	S
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				E	N	O	L		A	E	R	A	T	E
A	P	S	E		H	O	E	D		R	A	T	E	S
C	A	N	D	L	E	S		E	G	O	T	I	S	T
I	R	O	N	O	R	E		F	E	N		O	T	O
D	E	B	A	T	E	S		Y	E	S		N	A	P

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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have excellent verbal and writing skills. At times you can actually inspire others or encourage them in some way. You're an entertaining person, yet you're businesslike and sensible. You have your finger on the pulse of the public: You're very clued-in. Others trust you. Focus on your closest partnerships and friendships this year.
Birthdate of: Viggo Mortensen, actor; Art Buchwald, political humorist; Tom Petty, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's Moon is directly opposite your sign. This means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. You want to talk to partners and close friends.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Do something today that makes you feel better organized at work or at home. A good beginning would be to simply reduce the amount of clutter all around you. (If you do this, you'll feel so much better!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're a playful, flirtatious person. Try to set aside some time today just to have fun. Enjoy a movie, catch a game or have good times with friends. (And flirt a little!)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Pay attention to your domestic needs today. Shop for items for home. Stock your fridge. Talk to family members. Putter around the place so that you feel in control of your cozy nest.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a busy day. Short trips, errands and discussions with siblings and relatives keep you on the run. It's a good day for shopping.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Focus on financial issues today. Take care of banking needs. Pay your bills. Find out just how much money you don't have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): With the Moon in your sign today, you'll feel a bit more emotional about everything. However, you're also a tad luckier than everyone else today. (Whee!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You'll appreciate some solitude today. (You can't be all things to all people all the time.) Do whatever it takes to have a little downtime just by yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A discussion with a female friend could be significant today. Quite possibly, someone needs to confide in you, or vice versa. Be sympathetic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): No matter what you do for a living, somehow attention will be drawn to you today, no matter how briefly. Knowing this, be careful how you act.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Try to do something different today. You're restless, and you want adventure. Go someplace you've never been before. Talk to people from different backgrounds and cultures.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day to tie up loose details about shared property and anything that is held jointly with someone else. You'll be very fair.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		6		5		1		
		8						
5			6				3	7
				3	8	5		
2							4	
		9	2		4			
7	4				5			3
						4		
		2		8		6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

10/20

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	6	3	8	1	5	7	4	9
8	5	7	4	9	3	1	2	6
9	1	4	2	6	7	8	3	5
6	2	1	3	8	4	9	5	7
5	3	9	6	7	1	2	8	4
7	4	8	5	2	9	3	6	1
1	8	2	9	5	6	4	7	3
4	7	6	1	3	8	5	9	2
3	9	5	7	4	2	6	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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SM FOUNDER, brilliant Henry Sy Sr. and Trade Secretary Peter Favila

OCLP executive Ignacio Ortigas and Ortigas Center's Rex Drilon Jr.

TV PERSONALITY and actress Cindy Kurleto flanked by Shelly Sy and sister Rory Heidi

PASIG Vice Mayor Yoyong Martirez, SM Prime Holdings president Hans Sy, Mayor Mel Mathay and adorable, eye-catching beauty Carol Sy

INVITEES at the opening of Ace Hardware in SM include Ed Samaniego, Johnny Cobankiat, Tony Panganiban and Shang Ning Wee.

HOT RED and black. Counselor and deputy head of missions of the Swiss Embassy Irene Flueckiger and Uniglobe Travelware president Jimmy Thai

20 years of fine Filipiniana designs

From page F4

ray, couldn't say enough about the creativity of the designer of the hour, Edgar Allan, *naturellement*, *'di bala*!

New Pasig shopping site

All you *palanggas* living in Valle Verde and other subdivisions close by would be happy to find out that the fab SM Supercenter Pasig has just opened its doors to shoppers. Those around the new SM are thrilled by their "new neighbor."

Located on a two-hectare property on Fontera Verde along Eulogio Rodriguez Jr. Avenue in Pasig, the humongous mall now serves residents in the area.

After the opening Mass led by Bishop **Francisco San Diego**, the ribbon snipping was led by Rep. **Dodot Jaworski**, Vice Mayor **Yoyong Martirez**, and Councilors **Boy Raymundo** and **Andy Santiago**. The Sy clan was there such as SM founder and chair **Henry Sy Sr.** and wife **Felicidad**; SM Prime Holdings president **Hans Sy**; SM Supermarket SVP **Herbert Sy**; and SM president **Tessie Sy-Ceson**.

Hotshot namedroppables during the opening included Ortigas Center Limited Partnership hot executives **Rafael, Ignacio, Francisco** and **Fernando Ortigas, Rex Drilon**, Trade Secretary **Peter Favila**, San Miguel Corp. president **Ramon Ang**, and Prudential Guarantee chair **Roberto Coyiuto Jr.**, *palanggas*.

This new SM Supercenter has a refreshingly nature-inspired design that complements the neighboring Tiendesitas. The awesome natural lighting through the circular skylight in the atrium and the play of colors—sky blue, forest green and muted shades of pastels—is such a cool, fresh and organic concept.

And the big come-on is the popular Taste Asia, the concept first popularized in SM Hypermarket at the SM Mall of Asia. It is definitely for foodies who will surely drool over the Asian cuisine, *dampa*-style, *palanggas*.

Hey, check it out, *palanggas*. As usual, it's going the SM way, *'di bala*!

LUZ COTOCO and SM Supermarket SVP for marketing Herbert Sy

PRUDENTIAL Guarantee taipan Roberto Coyiuto Jr.

SERGIO Ortiz Luis Jr., Jerry Sy and Ambassador Donald Dee

FRANCIS Kong, Benny Aw, Emerson Yao, Johnny Thai, Edmund Orense and Willy Sy

ELENA Andaya, Susan Thai and Vernon Go

Swiss travel gear

The color of the day was definitely red and black, *palanggas*, as the world-famous Swiss brand Victorinox celebrated the launch of the new collection of its upscale and high-quality travel gear and bags with a cocktail party-cum-fashion show at The Podium. Victorinox was behind the development of the Swiss Army knife in 1891.

Guests of honor were **Irene Flueckiger**, counselor and deputy head of missions of the Swiss Embassy, and **Melanie Soref**, trade officer of the Swiss Business Hub.

Welcoming the travel-bugs and guests were hotshot executives from Uniglobe Travelware Co. Inc, exclusive distributor of Victorinox here, headed by president **Jimmy Thai**; corporate adviser **Susan Thai**; and managing directors **Willy Sy, Johnny Thai, Thomas Lim** and **Jerry Sy**.

Superbly hosted by fashion icon **Apples Aberin Sadhwani**, the event treated guests to yummy Swiss-inspired finger-food and cocktails. Gorgeous mannequins paraded the new products on a cross-shaped runway.

Naturellement, the real stars of the night were the new travel gear collections: the Victorinox University and Werks Travelers 2.0, excellent for backpacks and luggage for casual travelers, and the Victorinox Architecture and Mobilizer NXT 3.0, the must-have in ultimate luxury for business travels, dahlings.

Without a doubt, the Victorinox affair was one awesome red-letter event, *palanggas*. It introduced people to the next level in ultra-luxury travel gear.

TOP MODELS Bubbles Paraiso and Mikee Carreon swing home their latest travel gear.

WELCOAT players Jun Jun Cabatu and Jay-R Reyes

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JENNY and Do Icasiano, Joey Villarama, (standing) Mickey Boren, Edgar A., Glory Villareal and husband John Boren

NENET Puyat, Doris Tiongco, Nina Rustia, Carrie Fernandez and Techie Cristobal

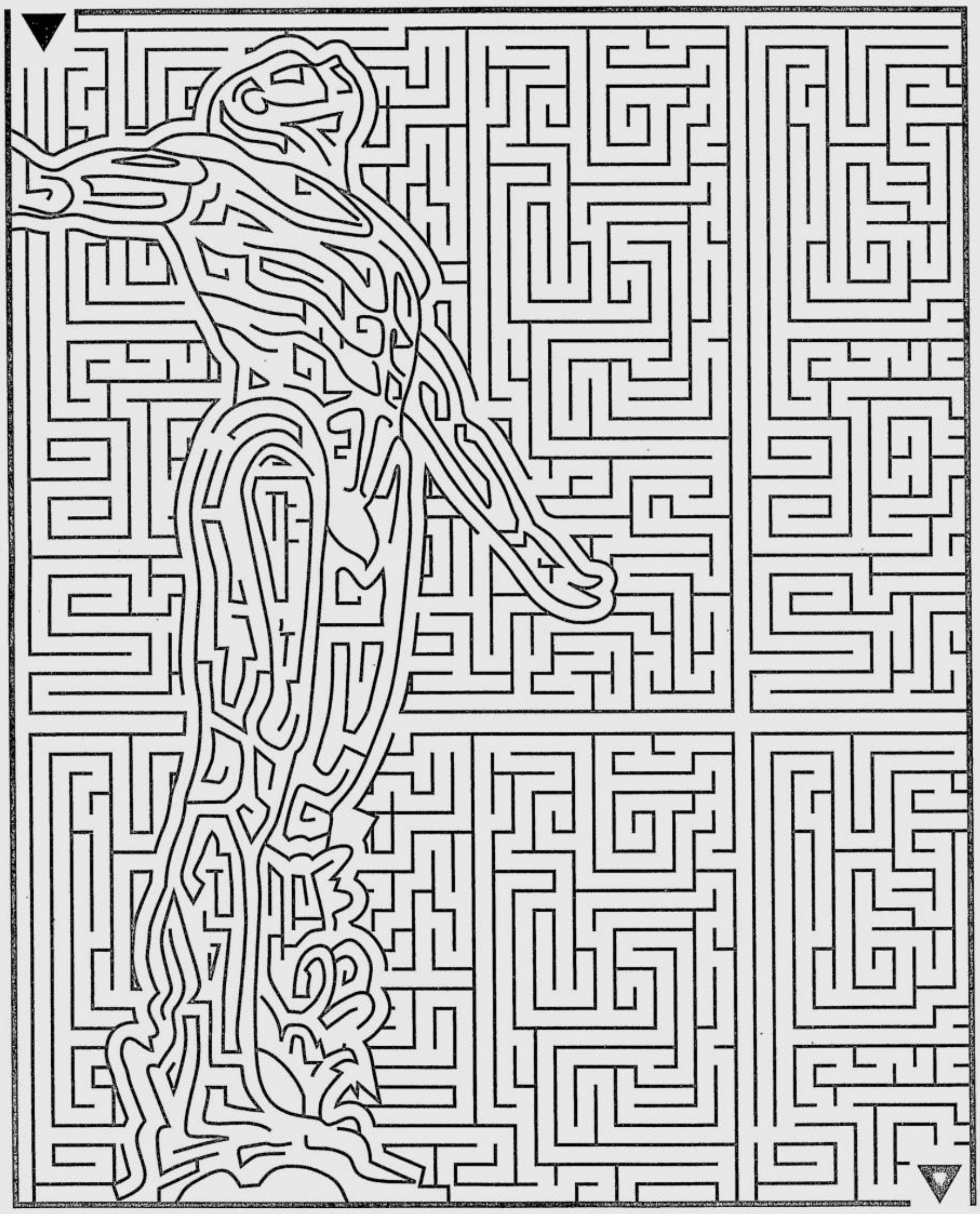
DESIGNER of the hour Edgar Allan and his special guests, Sen. Jamby Madrigal and dean of Philippine fashion Ben Farrales

TONI Galang

BONJIN Chua

RENE Tiongco

20 years of fine Filipiniana designs



CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, *PALANGGAS*? IT has been the 20th consecutive year that designer and popular southern gent **Edgar Allan** has participated in the Flores de Mayo organized by the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus, headed by the dean of fashion himself, **Ben Farrales**.

Edgar has always been known for his eye-catching and very feminine wedding gowns of simple but elegant lines. So, to celebrate the milestone occasion of his 20th year in the business, Edgar Allan and his worka-sonic business partner, **Rene Tiongco**, mounted a retrospective exhibit of Flores de Mayo gowns close to the Edgar Allan Boutique in Glorietta in Ayala Center. His faithful past and present clients, *famille* and pals in the fashion industry were all present at the opening.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

Ben Farrales and Sen. **Jamby Madrigal** led in the must-have ceremonial snipping of the ribbon, dahlings. Mang Ben has always been supportive of Edgar's career through the years, while Senator Jamby formally opened the first Edgar Allan boutique at the Ayala Center in the '80s.

Socializing while touring the colorful collection of ternos and Maria Claras were **Pinky Abad Calupe** of Ayala Land and deputy executive director **Emilie Versoza Tiongco** of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, as well as RCBC bank manager **Jenny Icasiano** and **Susan Fernandez** of the Asian Development Bank.

Fashion designers **Oscar Peralta, Edgar Madamba** and **Lito Perez**, among others, focused their eagle eyes on the details and silhouettes of the very theatrical creations, *palanggas*.

Nenet Puyat and **Doris Tiongco** were full of admiration and nostalgia for the gowns since their pretty daughters had been *sagalas* and models of Edgar in the past.

Waxing nostalgic was former University of the Philippines dean **Pruding Conlu** who was with her daughter **Myrtle**.

Rene Tiongco, who had just jetted in from New York, was ecstatic upon seeing his favorite *sagala* gown on display—a flora appliqued white terno worn by Miss Belgium **Christelle Roelandths**, no less, *palanggas*, in the 1994 Miss Universe pageant held in Manille.

Bridal coordinator **Celia Cunanan**, together with ladies-who-lunch such as **Lale Joson, Josie de Castro, Nena Ferrera** and **Ellen Vi-**

20 YEARS/ F3

PRETTY, pretty Pia Rodriguez, Felicia Rodriguez and Emilie Tiongco

CLOCKWISE from left: Nena Ferreras, Ellen Viray and Josie de Castro

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LIFESTYLE

A toast to the Ultra Life

IT WAS AN EVENING OF ULTRA EXPERIences as Samsung recently honored individuals for their contributions in the fields of design and the arts. It was also a night to highlight Samsung's Ultra phone series—the X820, the world's thinnest profile (6.9mm); the D830, a minimalist, smart clamshell; and the D900, the world's slimmest 3-megapixel slider.

Led by its distinguished president and CEO for South East Asia Sang Jin Park and its vice president and chief marketing officer for South East Asia Jeong Wook Kim, Samsung laid out the red carpet for some of the country's most noteworthy fashion designers and fashionistas, prominent celebrities and members of the elite. Leading the toast to the Ultra Life was president and CEO for Samsung Philippines Spencer Shim.

Apart from the paying tribute to fashion innovator Randy Ortiz and multifaceted artist and humanitarian Joanne Zapanta-Andrada, the Ultra Party also featured a dynamic performance by Mr. Pure Energy, the one and only Gary Valenciano. Valenciano was given a special citation by Samsung for his contributions to the music industry. He was also gifted with a special song sung by Sam Concepcion.

Beautifully decorated installations brought to life the passions of the Ultra Honours gallery, depicting a piece of their arts and hearts.

Just what is the "Ultra Life"?

As Park explains it, "Samsung has always espoused going beyond the norm. We admire people who are able to inspire simply through their desire and passion. They go beyond the limits, and continue to better themselves and their talents. That is definitely ultra."

Samsung Electronics Philippines president Spencer Shim adds, "Breaking convention to achieve something beyond the ordinary is the very philosophy of Samsung. As a service to our consumers, we are dedicated to surpassing limits. This is our passion. And this is what the Ultra Life stands for."

Angel Jacob hosted the festivities, which included a fashion presentation showcasing some of Ortiz's masterfully divine creations and Zapanta-Andrada's introspective paintings and photographs.

Samsung's successful fete was the result of the hard work of Samsung vice president ICT for Samsung Electronics Philippines Charles Choi, together with Fe Varilla, Mark Dewey Sergio and Yasmin Marquez. Also present were other Samsung executives: Jerry Lacson, Pen Roque and Angeline Limbaco.

The ultra-beautiful, ultra-stylish crowd included ABS-CBN's Ernie Lopez with wife Jeena, Summit's Liza Gokongwei-Cheng, Bench's Ben Chan, Presidential couturier Ito Curato, real-estate maven Divine Lee, Genesis' Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano with son Paolo, silk princess Katrina Goulbourn with hubby Chris Feist, design maverick Vic Barba,

A TOAST/ G2

SANG Jin Park, Samsung Electronics president and CEO for South East Asia; Gary Valenciano, Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano, and Jeong Wook Kim, VP and chief marketing officer for Samsung Electronics South East Asia

RANDY Ortiz, Joanne Zapanta-Andrada and Spencer Shim, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines

SAMSUNG VP ICT Charles Choi

FE Varilla

RAINE Javalera, Yam Marquez and Mark Sergio

ANGELINE Limbaco, Liza Gokongwei-Cheng and Pen Roque

imagine doing more with less.
The Ultra Life.

Imagine always being in two places at once, doing two things at once. No office. No boundaries. No restrictions. With Samsung's new Ultra Edition it's not that hard to imagine. *www.samsung.com/ph*

The Ultra 12.9

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SAMSUNG

ANGEL Jacob

JUANJO and Judith Berenguer-Testa

LEAH de Guzman and David

CAT Juan and Paolo Soler

BORGY Manotoc and Ornusa Cadness

PAOLO Valenciano and Sam Godinez

KATRINA and Chris Feist

BEN Chan and Miguel Pastor

JEENA Lopez and Vic Barba

SUSAN Joven and Pen Roque

PIXIE Olivares and Carlo Tanseco

OWEN Bobadilla and Marci Reyes

TWEETIE de Leon-Gonzalez

MR. Pure Energy Gary Valenciano

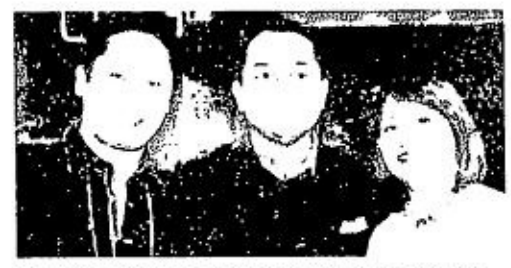
A toast to the Ultra Life

From page G1

photographer Ronnie Salvacion, iconic stylist Henri Calayag, gorgeous couple Borgy Manotoc and Ornusa Cadness, fit tandem Tina and Cat Juan, TV personality Paolo Trillo, designer Carlo Tanseco, the ever-beautiful Judith Zapanta with husband Juanjo Berenguer-Testa, supermodel Tweetie de Leon, model-turned-beauty expert Chechel Joson, hot model Paolo Soler, and a host of other personalities.

The Samsung Ultra Party is a regional effort adopted in all Southeast Asian countries to celebrate the lives of inspirational and unconventional personalities. The Philippines was the second country to host this Ultra Honours celebration.

MODELS in Randy Ortiz clothes holding the Samsung D900 and the X820


RONALD Pineda, Randy Ortiz and Thelma San Juan

RAYA Mananquil in a gown by Randy Ortiz

MODELS don fashion by Randy Ortiz with the Samsung D900 and the X820.

ABS-CBN's Ernie Lopez

DIVINE Lee

RONNIE Salvacion, Chechel Joson and Alan Vianzon

TESS Santos, Karen Joven, Willin Chan and Yavam Bereña

MALYN Ochoa, Roxanne Silverio, Reena Reyes and Boyet Sison

VINCENT Santos, Rissa Samson and Paolo Trillo

PHILIP and Techie Hagedorn with Chunchi Soler

LIZA Ilarde and Henri Calayag

NOEL and Jaime Andrada

SHEENA dela Cruz and Dorcas Canlas

FABIO with Presidential couturier Ito Curata

SHAWN Yao and Rovilson Fernandez

MODEL shows off Samsung X820.

Ultra individuals, ultra inspirations

THE SAMSUNG ULTRA EDITION CELEBRATES LOCAL personalities and their spirited, individual and thriving lifestyles.

Design stalwart Randy Ortiz and photographer-painter-philanthropist Joanne Zapanta-Andrada are but two who live their lives with deep drive and determination.

"Ultra living is the fusion of work and play, and successfully balancing both. Ultra individuals live and breathe this philosophy and are constantly pushing the limits. In the same way, the Ultra Edition mobile phones redefine communication, technology and lifestyle to cater to all the facets that make up our everyday living, thus bridging gaps and ignoring boundaries," says Charles Choi, VP for information communications technology, Samsung Electronics Philippines Co.

Like Ortiz and Zapanta, more and more prestigious individuals are embracing the Ultra life.

They are keen, discriminating names in their respective fields, inspiring and inspired achievers who shape and influence the world around them in the fields of film, architecture, sports, performing arts, fitness and style.

One such individual is Marissa Floirendo, a director of photography specializing in underwater cinematography. This filmmaker is well known for her groundbreaking work in "Muro Ami," among others.

"Technology is a priority consideration in my profession. But so is convenience because of the amount of traveling I do. It's important to have a phone that is not bulky because I need to travel light," she says.

An embodied taste for form and function best describes one of the country's most respected and established architects and interior designers, Conrad Onglao.

"Architecture and interior design is a lifestyle. I have to live it," says Onglao of his craft. With a hectic weekday schedule that begins with jobsite visits, office work and meetings, Onglao remains tireless in his strive for excellence.

Race-car champion Dado Peña exudes drive for his sport, quite literally and figuratively. Peña always strives to be his best in every endeavor. His love for the sport is what pushes him to go further.

The Ultra phone, says, Pena, "compliments my fast-paced lifestyle as it allows me to have all the latest mobile phone technology in my pocket, especially in my tours from country to country."

Acclaimed ballerina, yoga instructor, and mother of two Maritoni Rufino-Tordesillas espouses the lifestyle of balance and well-being. She begins her day with Pranayama, a 20-minute breathing exercise, before she proceeds to teaching occasional ballet or yoga classes and handling administrative work for her ballet school Danspace.

A positive outlook in life, centered on the values of inner peace, happiness, contentment and detachment, balances the rigors of daily life. And for this, "The lighter the phone, the better," she says.

Tristan Choa is also immersed in the yoga lifestyle as an instructor at Brickram Yoga Manila. Apart from teaching morning and evening yoga classes, he is also involved in the construction of the new Brickram Yoga Studio in Quezon City. Choa leads a decidedly healthy lifestyle. On yoga, "It's basically linking up what you hear, understanding it and expressing it through your body," he says.

About the Ultra phone, Choi says, "This phone has the perfect balance of slim design and function, which is great!"

For jewelry designer and humanitarian Wynn Wynn Ong, being mediocre is not an option.

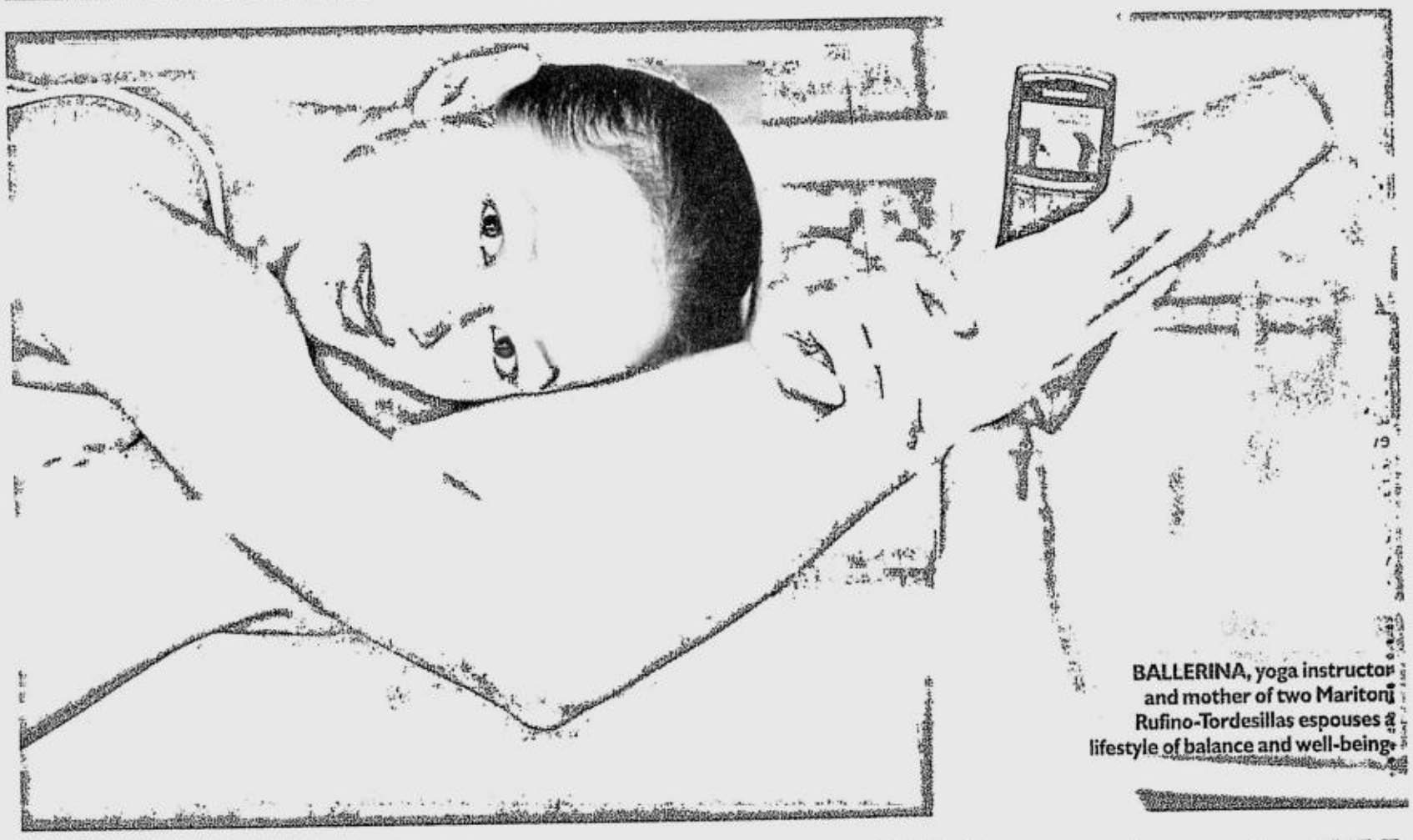
"A person should push herself to the absolute extent of his or her capacity. It is impossible to know your own strengths or weaknesses if you don't explore what you can do," she says.

This mantra is reflected in her persona. "Constant improvement, going beyond limits. That's what life is all about."

Samsung Electronics Philippines president and CEO Spencer Shim sums it the best for these individuals.

"Ultra living begins when the demands of life and technology meet to give birth to unlimited possibilities. Samsung's Ultra Edition mobile phones redefine the boundaries of communication to reflect the Ultra lifestyle that all can relate and aspire toward sophisticated, creative and beyond boundaries."

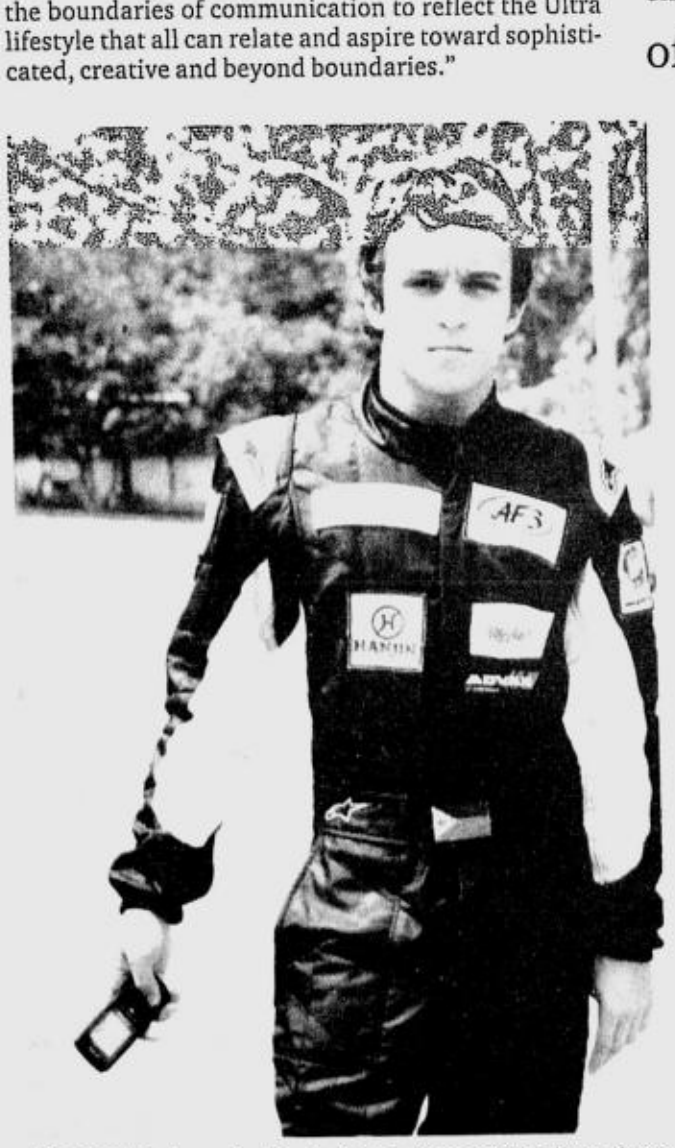
ARCHITECT and interior designer Conrad Onglao balances form and function in his work and life.



BALLERINA, yoga instructor and mother of two Maritoni Rufino-Tordesillas espouses a lifestyle of balance and well-being.

The spirited, individual and thriving lifestyles of these leading personalities echo the cutting-edge design and function sensibilities of Samsung's new Ultra phones

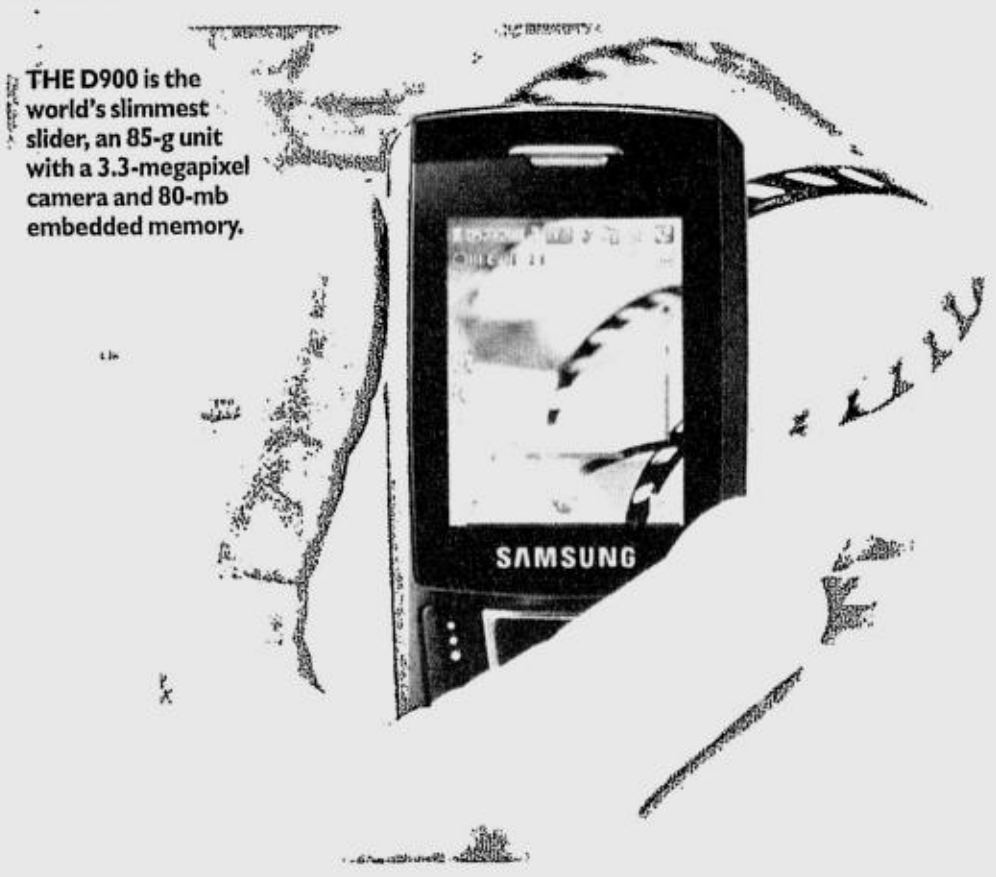
YOGA instructor Tristan Choi on the ergonomically designed Ultra Edition: "This phone has the perfect balance of slim design and great function!"



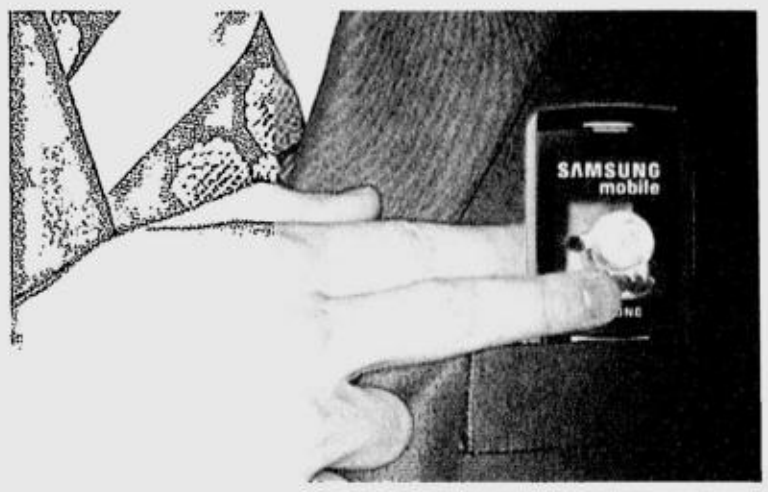
RACE-CAR champion Dado Peña believes: "My Ultra phone compliments my fast-paced lifestyle as it allows me to have all the latest mobile-phone technology in my pocket."

FOR JEWELRY designer and humanitarian Wynn Wynn Ong, being mediocre is not an option. "Constant improvement, going beyond limits—that's what life is all about," she says.

UNDERWATER cinematographer Marissa Floirendo, known for her work in "Muro-ami," says: "Technology and convenience are a priority because of my traveling. I need to travel light."

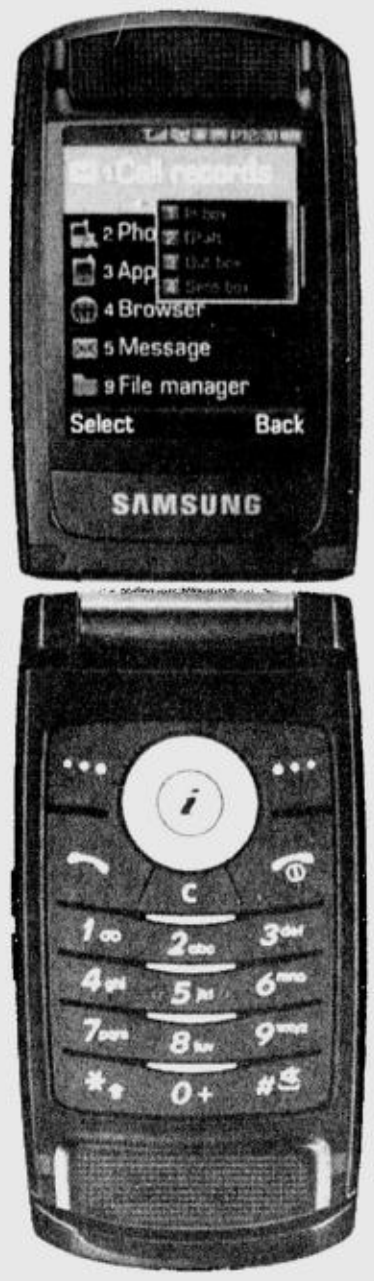


THE D900 is the world's slimmest slider, an 85-g unit with a 3.3-megapixel camera and 80-mb embedded memory.



THE X820 is 103 x 54 x 9.9 mm yet powerful with its 2.3" 240x320 262K color TFT/0.8" 96x16 16Gray (1 Fixed-Line), document viewer, Bluetooth, USB and TV-output features.

Redefining mobile technology



SAMSUNG D830, the world's slimmest clamshell phone, is a 66-g unit with a 2-megapixel camera and 80-mb embedded memory.

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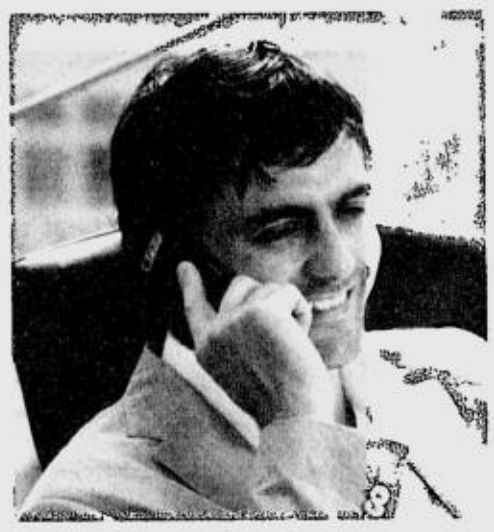
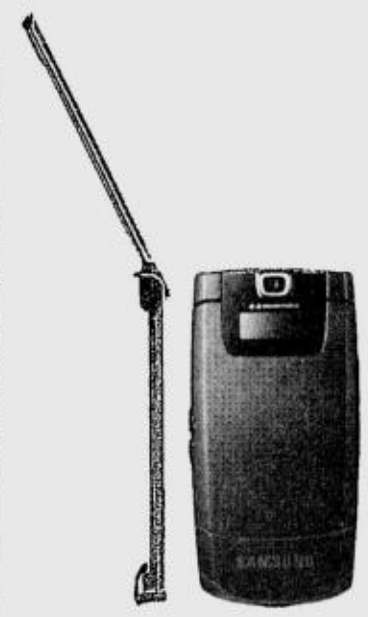


The Ultra Edition 6.9

The Ultra Edition 12.9

The Ultra Edition 9.9



THE ULTRA Edition illustrates Samsung's sensitivity to consumer needs by delivering smaller and thinner mobiles phones without compromising reliability or premium multimedia capabilities.

SAMSUNG UNVEILS SLIM MOBILE PHONES that redefine the way we know cell phones.

"The Ultra Edition is ergonomically designed to become one with the user, moving beyond the limitations inherent in slim phones to embody an ideal combination of comfort, simplicity and sophistication to let users do more with less," says Spencer Shim, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines Co.

The Ultra Edition 6.9 (X820) is the world's slimmest phone. It expresses Samsung's commitment to create the slimmest and lightest product in the market today. Weighing a mere 66 g and measuring a slim 6.9-mm depth, the lightweight gadget is today's definitive tool to help users stay connected, take pictures with the 2-megapixel camera, or enjoy their favorite tunes with the music player.

Fiberglass-infused plastic is also used to increase extraordinary durability to protect the wealth of features that are compressed into the 6.9-mm frame using the Smart Surface Mounting Technology.

The Ultra Edition 12.9 (D900), meanwhile, is the world's slimmest 3-megapixel slider.

The Ultra Edition 12.9 offers the latest in multimedia technology with premium slide-up design for business professionals. The 12.9-mm slide-up is the thinnest slider ever designed to come equipped with a powerful 3.13-megapixel camera. The main screen can be viewed on the vivid 262K color screen. You can also enhance your multimedia experience with the Bluetooth stereo headset.

Then there's the Ultra Edition 9.9 (D830), the world's slimmest clamshell. This model raises the bar in slimness and design of clamshell handsets. With its simple ultra-slim folder design and the latest cutting-edge technology, the 9.9-mm ultra-slim clamshell goes beyond the boundaries of form and function. It comes outfitted with a 2-megapixel camera, 2.3" wide display, and an external memory slot for extra storage.

Visit www.samsung.com.

X820 D900 D830

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Dinner fashion show benefits cultural, educational groups

MONIQUE LHUILLIER WILL HOLD A GALA dinner-fashion show fundraiser Nov. 12 at Makati Shangri-La Hotel. The show benefits Asia Society's young Filipino leaders and cultural education and Bantay Bata 163's education and care programs for abused children. Chair of the benefit show is Imelda Cojuangco. Co-chairs are Doris Magsaysay Ho, Gina Lopez, Mons Romulo Tantoco and Lizzie Zobel. Lhuillier will present her latest international collection of ready-to-wear and bridal gowns. The next day, Nov. 13, the items will go on sale. Lhuillier's clients include Angelina Jolie, Sarah Jessica Parker, Iman, Debra Messing, Jennifer Connelly, Jessica Simpson, Britney Spears, Alicia Silverstone and Diane Lane. Broadway star Lea Salonga is guest performer. Louie Ocampo is musical director. Robby Carmona is fashion director while Tina Maristela Ocampo heads the creative team.

HIGH SCHOOL Batch '67 of St. Joseph's Academy (now La Consolacion School) recently met to plan their ruby-anniversary homecoming on Jan. 27, 2007, at Shangri-La Hotel's Quezon Hall. All HS Batch '67 graduates are invited to join the next planning meeting at 3 p.m. on Dec. 3, at Barrio Fiesta, Wilson Street, San Juan. Call Flor Garcia- Magno at 0919-4739815, Nitz Dayao-Santiago at 0917-8856491 or Cora Ongpauco-Tamayo at 0917-8058020.

MONIQUE Lhuillier makes her debut on the local fashion scene with a fashion gala benefit dinner and fashion show.

GOINGS ON

COMPETITION. Denenes Very Mild Baby Cologne is hosting the 1st Denenes All-Women Badminton Tourney for Ladies Doubles on Oct. 21 at Club 650 Sports Center, Libis, QC. The competition is open to all professional and nonprofessional women players, 14 years old and above. The tournament will have five levels. The winning pair in each level gets P9,000. The first runner-up pair gets P6,000 while the second runner-up pair will get P3,000. All winners will receive Denenes gift packs. Call or text 0917-8033365. A product of Spain, Denenes now also has, in addition to cologne, Very Mild Bodywash and Mild Baby Shampoo with Vitamin B5. Denenes products are available at leading drugstores, department stores and baby-care outlets.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. GMA Kapuso Network's Sixth Noel Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shopping Expo 2006 will be held Nov. 24-26 and Dec. 21-23 at the World Trade Center. Also featured are performances by GMA Kapuso artists, a fashion show by Pops Fernandez's Pipay fashion line, puppet shows and storytelling sessions by Magel Cadapan. Call 6870654, 6873292 or e-mail cut@pldtdsl.net.

HALLOWEEN EVENT. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and The Brick Road have lined up various activities for Oct. 28 to mark Halloween. Kids 12 years old and below may join Fancy TV grand trick or treat. With every purchase of a pumpkin pail at the department store and Planet Toys, kids can register at the Customer Service Booth Phase 3 up to Oct. 25. Kids will receive goodies and qualify in the costume contest if they come dressed like television characters from "Encantadia," " Majika," "Darna" and animated shows. Entrance fee to Halloween show is P50. Customers 18 years old and above may join the Scary Movies on a Roll costume contest at The Brick Road. With a P500 single or accumulated purchase receipt from Sept. 15-Oct. 24, they can get an entry form. Costume contest is set at The Brick Road at 7 p.m. Call 6815401/19 loc. 118.

BAZAAR. The 8th Angel Sent Bazaar is set Oct. 21-22 at the Parish Garden of Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati. The bazaar features products from different religious organizations and nongovernment organizations. Call 8250804/3482, 0920-8766505 or 0917-8557137.

CONFERENCE. The Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts National Committee on Libraries and Information Services will sponsor a national conference on "Mainstreaming Values of Libraries, Librarians and Information Professionals in Knowledge Societies," Nov. 21-23, at the Manila Hotel. Call 7425612, 5249740, 5238481 local 293 or 5259401.

YOGA CLASSES. Paul Dallaghan, a direct student of yoga guru Sri K. Pattabhi Jois will conduct yoga classes in Alabang Oct. 24-26. Call Yoga Manila at 0917-522YOGA or e-mail yogamanila@gmail.com.

THE ASSOCIATION of Marketing Educators of the Philippines (AME) recently celebrated its 18th founding anniversary and inducted into office the board of directors for school year 2006-2007 at the Renaissance Hotel. President Cynthia A. Abella receives the gavel and symbol of AME from past president Rodelon V. del Mundo.

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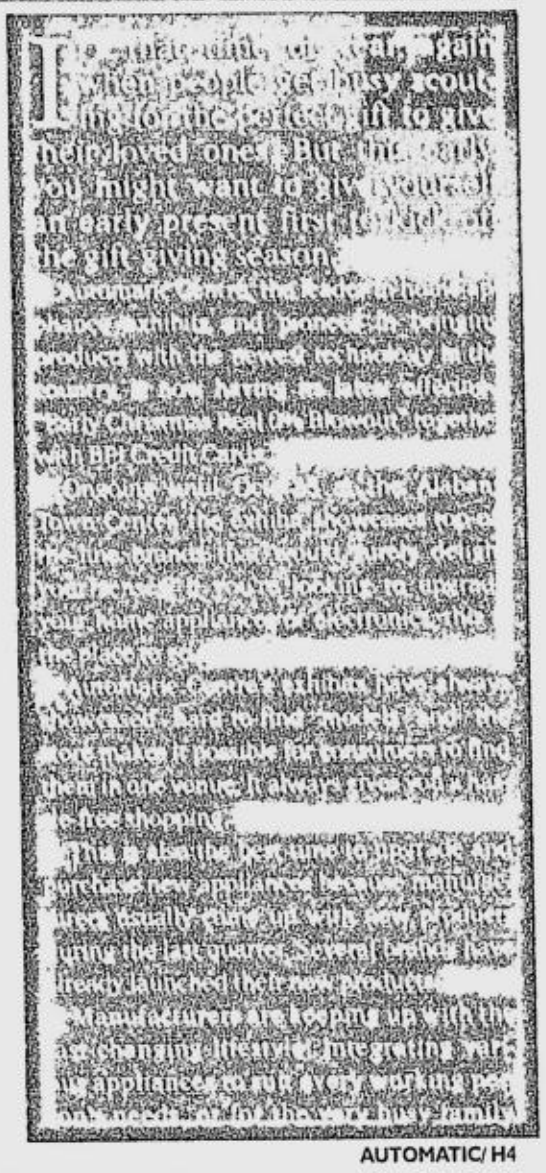

AUTOMATIC/ H4

Automatic Centre kicks off the gift-giving season with the latest appliances on exhibit at the Alabang Town Center

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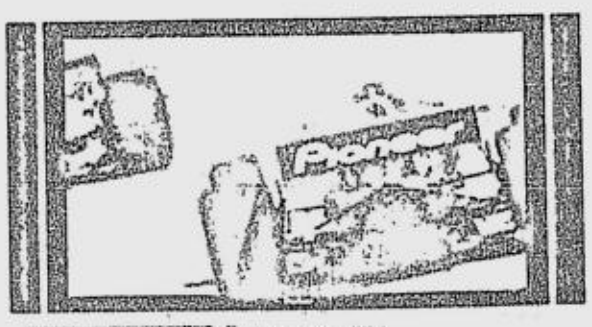
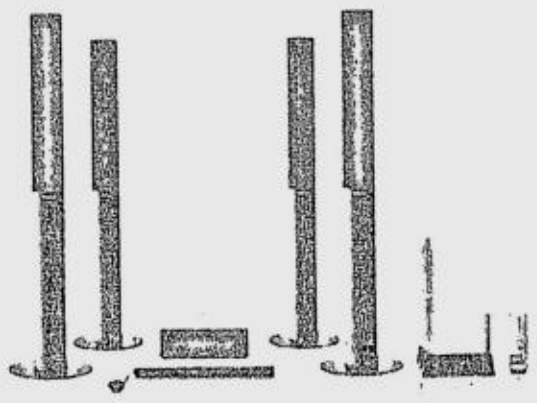


PDP-806HDQ Plasma TV



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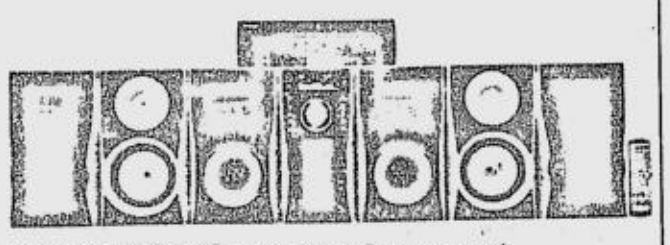

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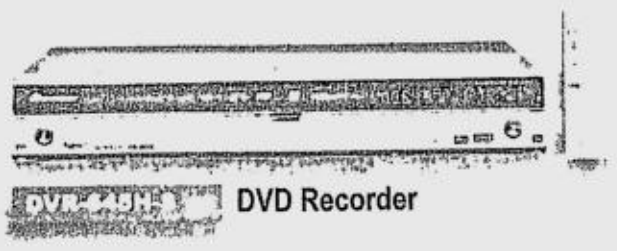

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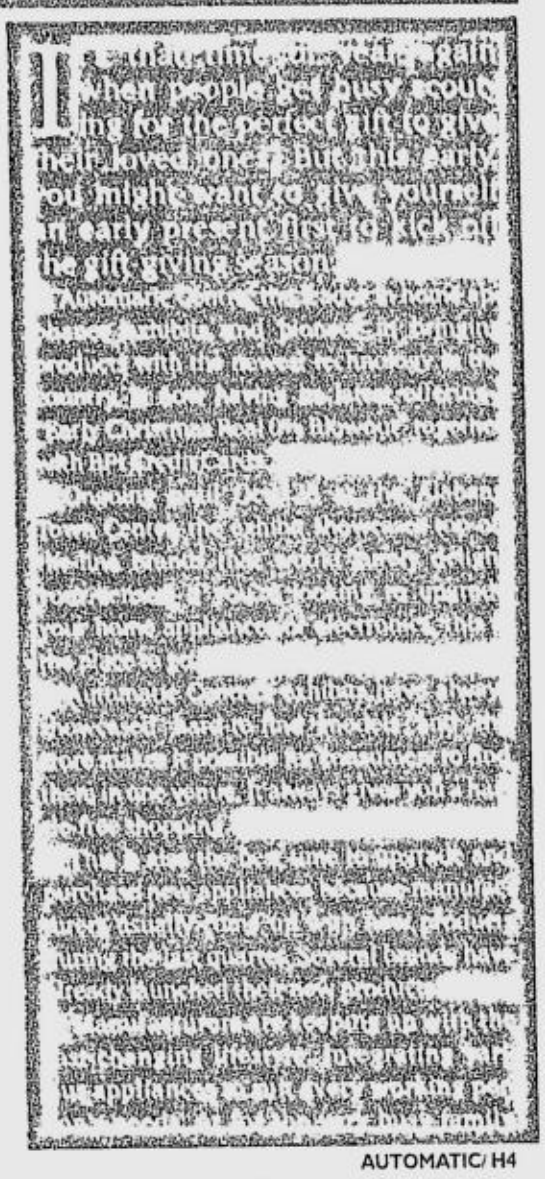

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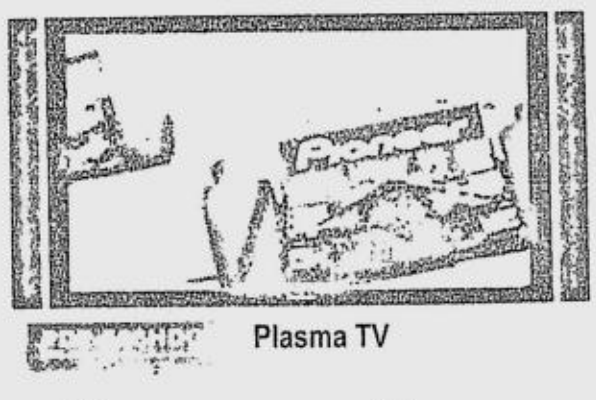
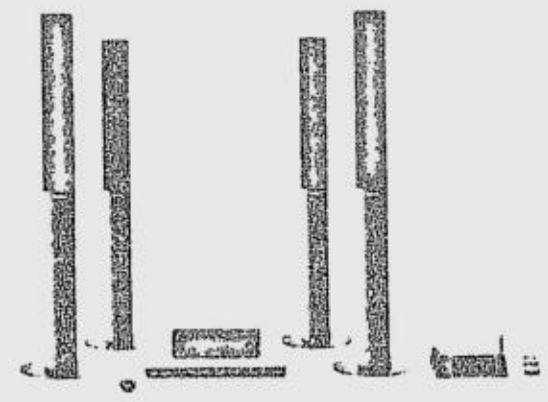


Plasma TV



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- 7500W P.M.P.O.

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- DVD / SVCD / VCD / CD / WMA / MP3 / MPEG-4 ACC / JPEG player, DivX, Virtual Surround Mini Component with Twin Subwoofer
- 7500W P.M.P.O

DVD Mini Component

- DVD Multi Disc Recording and Playback
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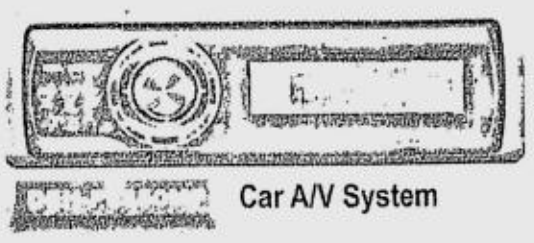
- A Digital Jukebox in your Living Room
- On-screen Help for Exceptional Ease of Use

DVD Recorder



- 4-CHANNEL HIGH-POWER WMA / MP3 / AAC / CD RECEIVER
- Color OEL Display

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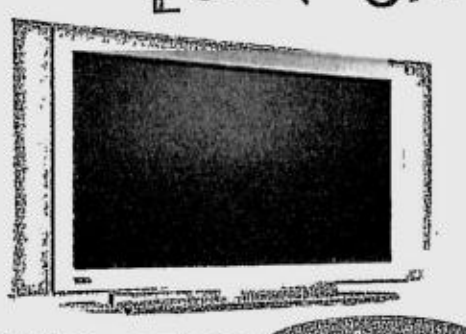

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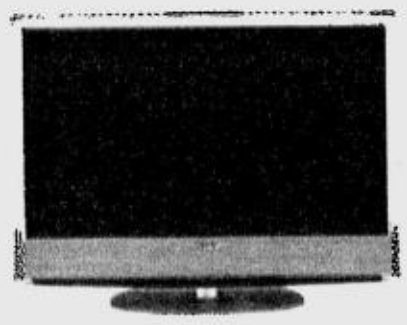
SRP: P 79,980
Option 1: Cash, Less P 8,000
Option 2: 12 Mos. 0% Interest, with Free Home Theater
Option 3: 18 mos. 0% Interest

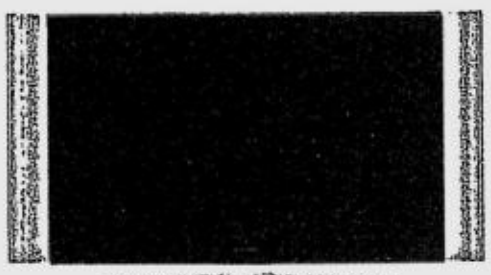


SONY KLV-S32A10
32" LCD SRP: P 99,990
Option 1 : 24 mos. 0% Interest
Free P 15,000 Home Theater and P 10,000 DVD/HDD Recorder Discount Vouchers

Option 2 : 12 mos. 0% Interest
Free P15,000 Home Theater
P 10,000 DVD/HDD Recorder and P10,000 Cybershot/Handycam Discount Vouchers

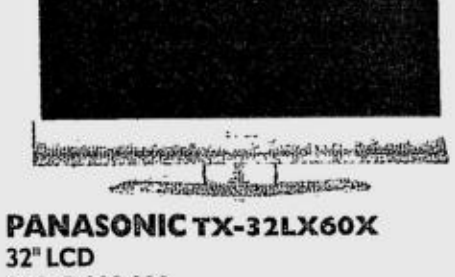
Option 3 : Cash
Plus P15,000 Home Theater
P 10,000 DVD/HDD Recorder
P10,000 Cybershot/Handycam and P 10,000 Bravia Gear Discount Vouchers

JVC LT-26WX84 Automatic Centre Exclusive
26" LCD
SRP: P 54,990
Option 1: 12 mos. 0% Interest
Option 2: Cash, Free Automatic Centre GC worth P5,000
Add P10,000 for a Home Theater

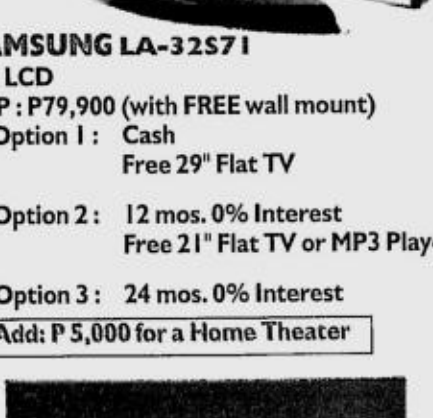


SHARP LC-32BX6M
32" LCD
SRP: P 104,998
Option 1 : 12 mos. 0% Interest
Free 21" Flat TV
Option 2 : 18 mos. 0% Interest
Free DVD Player
Option 3 : 12 mos. 0% Interest
Free Sharp Air Purifier
Option 4 : 24 mos. 0% Interest

SAMSUNG LA-32S71
32" LCD
SRP : P79,900 (with FREE wall mount)
Option 1 : Cash
Free 29" Flat TV
Option 2 : 12 mos. 0% Interest
Free 21" Flat TV or MP3 Player
Option 3 : 24 mos. 0% Interest
Add: P 5,000 for a Home Theater



PANASONIC TX-32LX60X
32" LCD
SRP: P 109,900
12 mos. 0% Interest
Free Home Theater



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3rd Level, Ayala Town Center, Alabang Tel. Nos. 809-5981/809-6076

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2nd Level, Robinsons Place Pioneer
Pioneer St. Cor. EDSA
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G/F EDSA Central Mall
Shaw Blvd. cor. EDSA
Tel. Nos. 683-0891/693-0722

PASIG
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Ortigas Center
Tel. Nos. 635-4674/635-9010

SAN JUAN
G/F Greenhills Shopping Center
Tel. Nos. 705-1379 or 89

QUEZON CITY
3rd Level, Robinsons Galeria
Ortigas Ave. cor. EDSA
Tel. Nos. 632-0672 to 73

3rd Level, Gateway Mall
Araneta Center, Cubao
Tel. Nos. 913-4642/913-4573

Value Station, Araneta Center, Cubao Tel. Nos. 421-6319 to 20

Upper G/F, SM North EDSA
Tel. Nos. 927-6747 or 63

MANILA
G/F, Tutuban Centermall 1
Tel. Nos. 251-0381 or 83

CEBU
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Tel. Nos. (032) 232-1001 to 02

SOGO Home and Office Center

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Tel. Nos. 867-2352 to 53

PASIG
Robinsons Place Metro East
Marcos Highway, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 647-8805 to 06

QUEZON CITY
G/F, Ali Mall, Cubao
Tel. Nos. 912-6601 to 04

MANDALUYONG
2nd Level, EDSA Central Pavilion
Tel. Nos. 634-3134/637-0568

CALOOCAN
2nd Level, Zabarte Town Center
Tel. Nos. 962-4185 to 86

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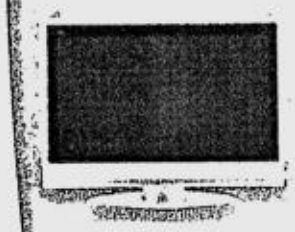

LCD TV Promo
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FREE Home Theater Option

Home Theater Promo
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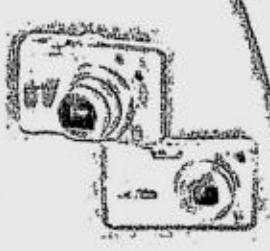

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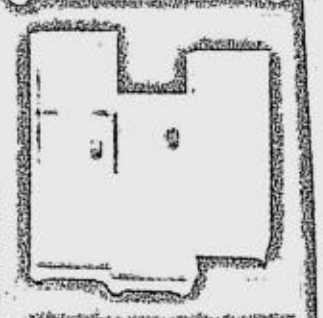
FREE 512MB SD card and camera case on selected models



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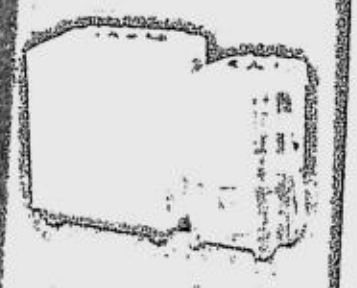

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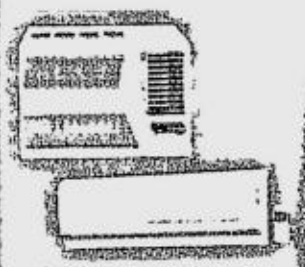

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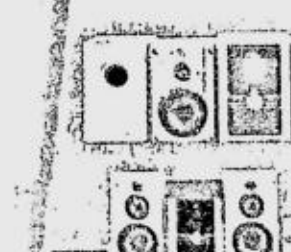

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People, Events & Products

Skin cancer cure DeBCC proves Pinoy ingenuity

LAST YEAR'S TOP AWARD (gold medal) in the International Inventor's Forum (Iena) held in Nuremberg, Germany Nov. 3, 2005 was awarded to multi-awardee Filipino inventor Rolando dela Cruz. His entry was DeBCC, a new formulation to cure skin cancer. In a clinical study led by Dr. Eric Talens-a pioneering University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital surgeon-DeBCC was shown to be effective and safe in the treatment of Basal Cell Carcinoma (BCC), a common type of skin cancer.

This year, the Philippines is again participating in the prestigious British Invention Show (BIS) and British Innovation and Technology Show, IP and United Kingdom's largest invention expo-two shows in one great British event-ongoing at the West Hall, Alexandra Palace, London, until Oct. 21. Two hundred inventors and their inventions from the United Kingdom, United States, China, Taiwan, Australia, Malaysia, Croatia, Iran, Algeria, Cameroon, Ukraine, India and the Philippines are battling it out for the World Invention Awards.

DeBCC, a cream developed from extracts of cashew nuts and other local herbs, again demonstrates Filipino ingenuity in developing treatments from indigenous plants and materials. Surgeons from the UP-PGH led by Talens conducted this pioneering clinical trial. Fourteen patients with skin cancer in the delicate middle third area of the face (initially deemed hopeless by some doctors and rejected by most plastic surgeons), were reportedly cured after 16 weeks of applying the cream. The patients did not go through radical or unacceptable surgeries. No recurrences were noted during the two-year follow-up period.

Basal Cell Carcinoma is the most common type of skin cancer in the world. It is estimated that the annual incidence is 1 million, over 500,000 and 190,000 in the United States, Europe and Australia, respectively. Moreover, the reported rate increased by 5 percent in the United States, and 20 percent in Australia, between 1985 and 1995. Locally, more than 80 percent of all skin cancers are BCC. Left unchecked, skin cancer in the middle third of the face may cause disfigurement and contractures, as well as loss of function of the eyes and nose. Usual treatments, which involve extirpative surgeries, have had the sad complication of further disfigurement since wide margins of normal tissues have to be removed to cure the cancer. Should the cancer be located at or near vital structures of the face such as the eyes, nose and mouth, horrific defects may result from attempts to surgically excise these cancers.

Best practices in financial processes, controls seminar

WHETHER YOU ARE A CORPORate giant or a small family owned firm, your business systems and operational processes can only function efficiently and effectively if you have the right internal controls. Left unchecked and not given attention, your internal control system is where much "hocus pocus", such as fraud, theft, fake financial transactions and other business crimes, often take place.

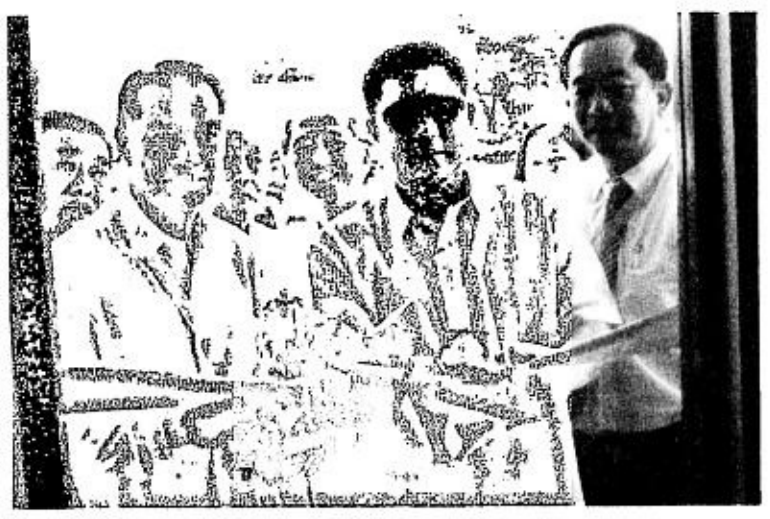
In the aftermath of numerous business scandals that have led to the collapse and business failure of even the biggest companies and marquee brands, the subject of internal controls has taken global centerstage. Governments have instituted stricter regulations for publicly listed companies to curb internal controls manipulations; moreover, private companies around the world that espouse best practices are investing more of their resources to strengthen all possible weaknesses in their financial processes and controls.

Effective internal controls are crucial to a company's operations. It is your "regulator" and defense against losses in key areas like procurement, payroll, sales, cash disbursements and other business activities needed to complete a business transaction. Internal controls can "help an entity get to where it wants to go, and avoid pitfalls and surprises along the way".

If you're thinking of growth, all the business experts in the world would tell you in chorus and in very loud and clear terms that you can never expand your business successfully and achieve business continuity if your internal controls are not in order. Drive your business growth through effective financial controls. Don't run your business without it.

The Center for Global Best Practices (telephone numbers 842-7148 and 59 and website www.cgbp.org), in collaboration with Isla Lipana/PriceWaterhouse-Coopers, is holding a one-day seminar titled "Best Practices in Financial Processes and Controls" on Friday, Oct. 27 at The Conservatory, Peninsula Manila. Participants in this program will learn the best practices in how to design and implement controls that will safeguard your assets, enhance integrity of financial reports, and protect you from business operational risks.

Main lecturer for this program is Roderick Danao, partner in the assurance division of Isla Lipana/PriceWaterhouseCoopers. He is also learning and audit methodology leader of the same firm. Danao has had extensive experience in audit, accounting and business advisory practice in private and public companies both in the Philippines and overseas. His assignments include postings in the PwC offices in London and the United States.



NEW CLASSROOMS FROM THE FIRST FAMILY

The family of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo donated a two-classroom school building to Betis National High School in Guagua, Pampanga. The San Fernando Fil-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, an FFCCCII local chapter in Pampanga, constructed the classroom through FFCCCII's 'Operation Barrio Schools'. Rep. Juan Miguel M. Arroyo of the 2nd District of Pampanga turned over his family's donation on Oct. 11 to the faculty of the Betis National High School and local officials of Barangay San Nicolas Betis. Director Lucio C. Tan, chair emeritus of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, joined Arroyo in the ribbon-cutting ceremony and unveiling of the marker. Present during the turnover were members of FFCCCII's welfare committee led by adviser VP Henry Ah and chair Enrique Chua. Also present were officers of the San Fernando Fil-Chinese Chambers of Commerce led by its EVP James Ong, and Tan She Ling, an active member of FFCCCII who facilitated the donation of the First Family.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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And now, Will Ferrell, the (half-) serious actor

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—**WILL FERRELL** WALKED quietly into Wolfgang Puck's Cut, just named by Esquire Magazine as "Restaurant of the Year."

Like most comedians, Will is quiet in person—not at all an attention-getter, except that he is tall (6' 3"). On this afternoon at Wolfgang's hot new place at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Will wore a long-sleeved shirt in a trendy shade of green that well-heeled hotel patrons couldn't help but look at him.

When Will sat down to discuss "Stranger than Fiction," his important film this year, he spoke softly. But somewhere in his deadpan replies to questions at this press conference, he casually inserted lines like "During my time in prison ..." (he was never in jail) and "Now that I'm married, I'm kind of thinking about going gay ..."

Will, coming off his hit last summer, "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," may have looked completely serious as he said those lines but you could virtually see the crazy sense of humor and his comic mind revving up in his eyes.

The actor employs this intelligence in "Stranger than Fiction," which offers one of the more interesting comedic story lines coming out from Hollywood this year. "Bewitched" this is not. Screenwriter **Zach Helm** gets the credit.

Will plays a mild-mannered IRS (Internal Revenue Service) accountant, Harold Crick, who one day hears a voice in his head that recites his every action, his every move. Harold finds out that he is inexplicably a character in a novel and the voice belongs to the novelist (**Emma Thompson**) planning to kill off his

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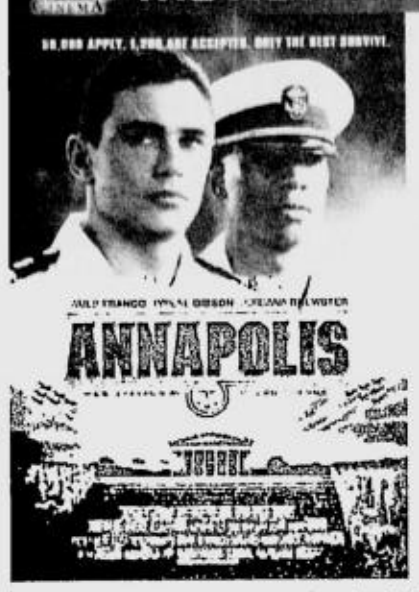

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Watch how Jake make eveything he hoped for come true--the chance to make his father and his mentor Lieutenant Burton proud, to stand up for his fellow plebes, and most of all, to create a different future for himself in the Navy.

Starring
James Franco • Tyrese Gibson

Directed by
Justin Lin

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SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
T-REX
11:00AM 12:30PM 2:00PM 3:30PM 10:00PM
ANT BULLY IN 3D
5:00PM
SUPERMAN RETURNS
7:00PM Admission Price- P350
1 THE BANQUET
2 MY FIRST WEDING
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU
PREMIERE CINEMA
WORLD TRADE CENTER
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
WORLD TRADE CENTER
CENTERSTAGE
TXT
CINEMA 1
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
CINEMA 2
WORLD TRADE CENTER
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 THE BANQUET
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 MY FIRST WEDDING
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TXT
9 PULSE
10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
11 BARANG
12 TILL I MET YOU

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 MY FIRST WEDDING
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 ANNAPOLIS
8 BARANG
9 THE DEPARTED
10 TILL I MET YOU
11 TXT
12 THE BANQUET

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 FIRST DAY HIGH
3 PULSE
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 BARANG
6 THE BANQUET
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 TILL I MET YOU
9 TXT
10 THE DEPARTED
11 MY FIRST WEDDING
12 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TXT
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
5 TILL I MET YOU
6 MY FIRST WEDDING
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 BARANG
9 THE DEPARTED
10 PULSE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 THE BANQUET
4 BARANG
5 TXT
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 BARANG
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 THE GUARDIAN
8 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
9 PULSE

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 THE BANQUET

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 THE BANQUET
2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 PULSE
4 MY FIRST WEDDING
5 THE GUARDIAN
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 BARANG
8 FIRST DAY HIGH
9 TILL I MET YOU
10 THE DEPARTED
11 DEAD OR ALIVE
12 TXT

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4333281-84
1 PULSE
2 TXT
3 BARANG
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 BARANG
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

movietime PROMO

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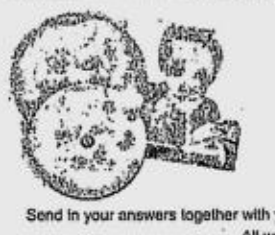

The Employee of the Month Poll is on!

Be one of the 10 lucky winners of Jessica Simpson's latest album, A Public Affair, from Sony BMG Music Philippines by giving us your best answer to this question about the movie:

Who do you think deserves to be the "Employee of the Month" and why?
A.) Zach Bradley B.) Vince Downey

Send in your answers together with your name, age, address and contact number to movieaddicts_smcinema@yahoo.com
All winners will be notified through phone on how to claim their prize

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1 THE GUARDIAN
2 PULSE
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 BARANG
5 TXT
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
8 THE BANQUET

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 PULSE
3 TXT
4 BARANG
5 DEAD OR ALIVE
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 BARANG

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 TXT
2 THE GUARDIAN
3 PULSE
4 FLY BOYS
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LIPA
1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 BARANG
4 TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 BARANG

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 BARANG

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 BARANG
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TXT

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 THE DEPARTED
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 STEP UP
5 BARANG
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 TXT
8 THE BREED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 RESERVED
3 THE BREED
4 TXT
5 THE DEPARTED
6 TILL I MET YOU
7 RESERVED
8 BARANG

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 SCOOP
2 BARANG
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 PULSE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 BARANG
4 TALLADEGA NIGHTS

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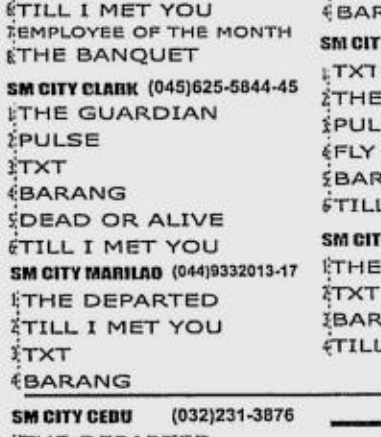

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GALLERIA

1 MY FIRST WEDDING • THX
1:00 3:00 5:00

2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
11:30 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

3 THE GUARDIAN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

4 THE DEPARTED
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 THE BANQUET
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 TXT
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 TILL I MET YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 BARNYARD
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

9 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00

10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 558-7809 • 12

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

2 THE BARNYARD 12.00 1:35 3:10
TEXAS CHAINSAW 5:15 6:50 8:25 10:00

3 TXT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50

4 TILL I MET YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50

5 THE GUARDIAN
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

6 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50

7 THE BANQUET
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 682-8199

1 BARNYARD
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 TILL I MET YOU
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

3 THE BANQUET
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

6 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

7 THE GUARDIAN
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

8 TXT
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT
5 THE BANQUET

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576 PIONEER 687-6576

1 THE BREED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

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1 THE DEPARTED
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 TILL I MET YOU

DASMARINAS (046) 854-2125 (046) 416-1132 ANGELES (045) 882-2468

1 PULSE
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 TXT
4 TILL I MET YOU

1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 PULSE

IMUS (046) 875-3888 (046) 471-8188 STARMILLS (045) 575-1822 (045) 981-5270

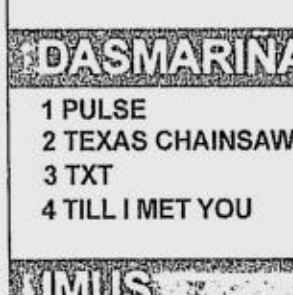
1 THE BANQUET
2 TXT
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TILL I MET YOU

1 THE GUARDIAN
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED
5 PULSE
6 FLY BOYS

BACOLOD (034) 433-0453 (034) 434-0453 ILOILO (033) 337-0170

1 THE DEPARTED
2 STEP UP
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 THE BREED
5 TXT
6 FLY BOYS

1 THE DEPARTED
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 DEAD OR ALIVE



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And now, Will . . .

From page 11

character. So Harold begins a quest to find the author so he can change his—and her—ending.

In a role that requires restraint and subtlety, a departure from his usual wacky, outrageous characters, Will lives up very well to the task. He does not sink amid the company of critically acclaimed performers: Emma, **Dustin Hoffman** (as a literature professor whom Harold turns to for help) and **Maggie Gyllenhaal**. As we've written in our coverage of the Toronto International Film Festival (where this movie was an entry), Maggie is such a fine actress that even in her small role as The Girlfriend, she is eminently watchable.

In Toronto, we asked Will's director, **Marc Forster**, about his star: "I only saw Will in 'Old School' and a couple of other films. When I first met him, I was very surprised how calm, nice and gentle he is. I looked at his eyes and I said, this is Harold Crick. He is just like an ordinary person but with such humanity.

"We talked about the script and each of the scenes beforehand. I told him how I felt about Harold Crick and his journey. Will came very prepared. He never even dared to improvise, which he is known for. He really stuck to the page because the writing was so good."

As for his next movie, imagine Will and **Jon Heder** ("Napoleon Dynamite") in tight costumes as an Olympic figure skating pair. Yes, the premise of "Blades of Glory" is that two male skaters find a loophole in the rules which lets them compete in the pairs event. In the following excerpts of our talk with Will, note that most of his answers were tongue-in-cheek.

If you can hear a voice in your head, whose voice do you want it to be?

I think Kim Jong-il's. It would be fun to have his voice in my head (laughter) just to hear what goes on in his brain.

If indeed you can control your destiny and write your own ending in a book, what will be that book's last sentence?

The last sentence of my book would be, "He smelled of rosemary (laughter)." Isn't that nice?

And if you can rewrite three things in your life?

I'm pretty happy with my life. But in college, I would have utilized office hours with my professors a little bit more. I feel bad about that because I went to a private college that cost a lot of money. I should have visited my professors. Those are people who can teach you something and I never bothered to even listen to them. What else? I really wanted to be a professional soccer player. The only problem was, I didn't play

SHOW TIME

Cueshé plays in Angeles City, Pampanga today

CUESHÉ, ONE OF THE HOTTEST POP-rock bands today, joins the elite roster of Winston in Concert performers as it plays in the Winston Wings Tour 2006 today at the R 'n' B Music Venue in Angeles City, Pampanga.

The band has released two hit albums—"Half Empty, Half Full," and "Back to Me." Cueshé's loyal followers can expect the band to play their signature tunes from the two albums, including a remake of John Lennon's "Jealous Guy."

CUESHÉ

Bobby Soul in benefit show

The Rotary Club of Pasig presents the Platters' living legend Bobby Soul with his three female back-up singers and the 6 Magic Touch Angels in a two-hour performance featuring "Love Boat" and "Las Vegas" style dancers on Oct. 26, 8 p.m. at the Music Museum in Greenhills.

The show is a special fund-raising project of Rotary Club president Rafael M. Garcia III and its board of directors for the benefit of Gawad Kalinga Rotary Village in Caliuag, Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

Bobby Soul is an original member of the world-famous singing group The Platters during the 1950s and the 1960s. The group's greatest hits include: "A Walk Down Memory Lane," "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," "The Great Pretender," "Remember When" and "Only You."

For ticket reservations, call 6428430, 6273805 or 09184950740.

Katelyn Tarver's promo tour

Sixteen-year-old Katelyn Tarver will be promoting her debut album "Wonderful Crazy" in Manila starting Oct. 23.

She topbills shows at the SM Mall of Asia on Oct. 27 and at the SM Megamall on Oct. 28. Both shows start at 5 p.m.

KATELYN Tarver

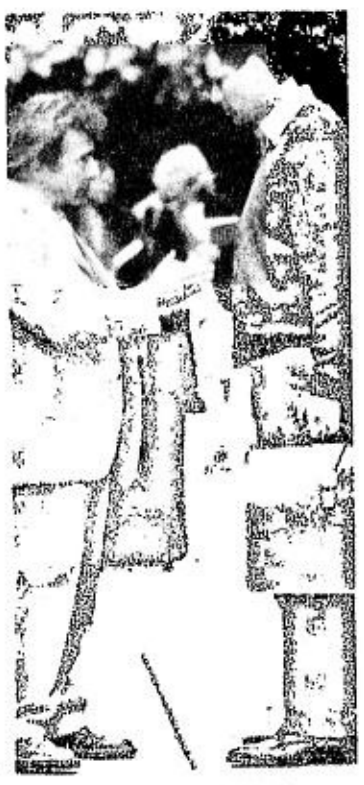
And now, Will Ferrell . . . From page 12

soccer in high school (laughter). I played basketball instead. My third one? I would be nicer to my younger brother as we were growing up. I was pretty mean to him sometimes. Nah, I take that back (laughter). Just the first two.

Did you actively pursue this role?

It was one of those much-talked about scripts in town that everyone was chasing. I didn't choose it. It fortunately chose me. I was lucky that Marc was willing to take a chance on me. I loved the story. It was a different thing for me to take on. I really felt that I could show that I can act in this type of comedy with some dramatic elements although I was slightly petrified at the same time.

I am not good at hard sell. I'm not much of a salesman for myself. I was tormented, like should I leave Marc phone messages as someone from the Department of Water and Power (laughter) or should I pursue this other than through my agents and really let him know that I am dying to do it? I just felt lucky that Marc chose me.



WITH co-star Dustin Hoffman

How was your experience doing a movie that's a bit different from the ones you've made?

The whole process was such a dream, from the moment I read the script to getting the word that I got the job. In my scenes with Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson, I just wanted to try to keep my end of the bargain. I felt comfortable. A lot of that has to do with Marc Forster. He lets you make your choices but if he feels that you've gone astray, he talks to you. I'm asked a lot if it was hard to not play something incredibly broad or go crazy. It was refreshing to get to show this other side of comedic acting.

Marc Forster's previous films and yours couldn't be more different. Did you have a common ground on what is funny?

Marc is Swiss so he's not that funny (laughter). No, Marc has this very dry, kind of sly sense of humor.

Let's see. There was a very un-funny instance

AND NOW/ I4

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SM Southmall
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SM Megamall
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COOKIE MONSTER'S Birthday Party
SM City North Edsa (The Block)
November 3, 2006

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Enjoy learning about the wildlife through fun activities!
SM City San Lazaro & SM City Sucat
Oct. 23, 24, 25
SM City North Edsa (The Block) & SM City Sta. Mesa
Oct. 30, 31, Nov. 1
SM Mall of Asia & SM City Bacoor
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Nov. 13, 14, 15
SM City Manila & SM City Fairview
Nov. 20, 21, 22

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In SM Cinemas Oct. 25
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October 29, 2006
10am to 2pm and 5pm to 7pm
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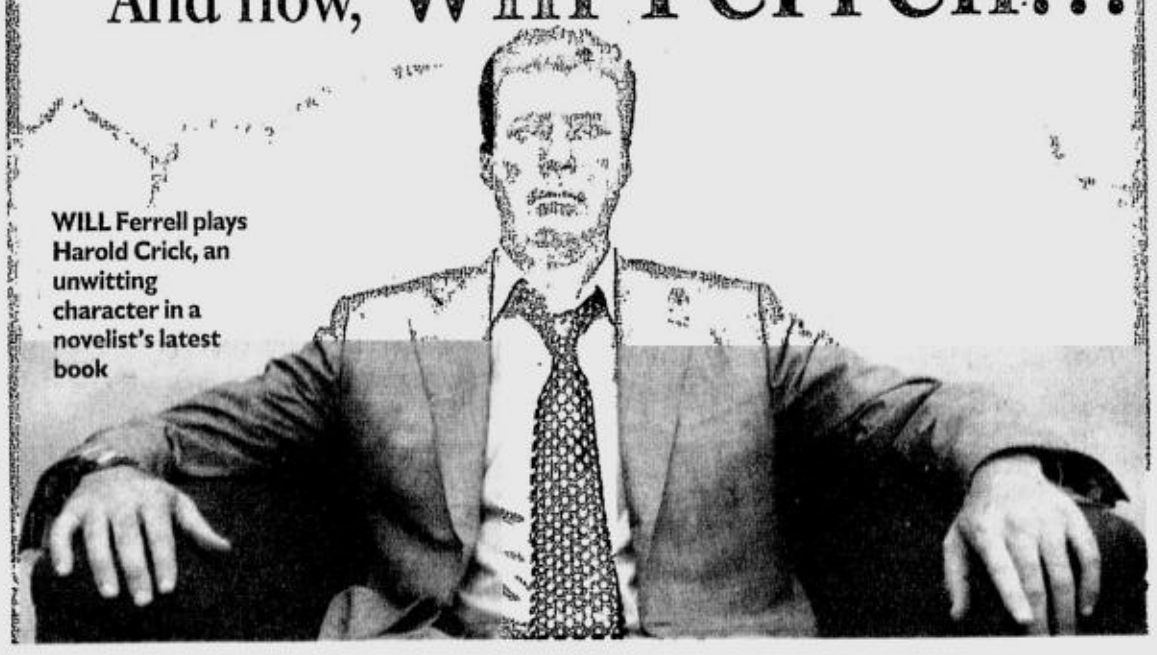
And now, Will Ferrell...



WILL Ferrell plays Harold Crick, an unwitting character in a novelist's latest book

From page I3

when I found him in my trailer going through my wallet (laughter). I said, "I knew it!" No, I just made that up.

There was a very funny but also very sweet moment when I got to watch Marc sing the theme from "Titanic" at a karaoke party (laughter) we had.

Did that really happen?

It actually happened. You should have him sing for you. He has the voice of a songbird, a Swiss songbird (laughter).

You did funny impressions of President George W. Bush when you were a regular on "Saturday Night Live." Do you imagine being in his position?

Sometimes I do. I imagine being him in his underwear at the ranch (laughter).

You did funny skits as Mr. Bush and now in "Stranger than Fiction," you play an IRS agent. Will you get in trouble with the government?

No, no, no. I've already given in to the fact that my phone is probably wire-tapped (laughter) at this point. I have been audited eerily enough (laughter) 12 years in a row.

No.

I think the movie celebrates the IRS (laughter) in a way that has never been seen before so I think they're going to be fired up. In fact, we're expecting a huge turnout from the IRS to support this movie.

I read somewhere that you have become a Scientologist. Is that true?

No, I said that very much tongue-in-cheek. I was playing around.

So you are not in search of a religion?

Well, I am trying to start a competing religion (laughter) because they (Scientologists) are doing great and I'm very jealous of that.

Were there any roles that you auditioned for and did not get and still wish that you got them?

I've been dying to work with director **Alexander Payne.** I met with him for (roles in) "About Schmidt" and "Sideways." For two! (But Will did not get cast.) I watched those films and I loved his casting. I saw why he made the choices that he made. I can never feel too bad about it.

You wanted to play the Jack Nicholson role in "About Schmidt"?

No, I wanted the son-in-law role.

How has marriage changed your appreciation of women?

Since I got married, I try not to chase other women (laughter). I was the kind of funny guy whom women thought was sweet and funny but they weren't necessarily attracted to me. I was always a day late and a dollar short on that part. I was kind of shy. I used humor as my way to meet someone.

Now that I'm married, I'm kind of thinking about going gay (laughter) just to see what that's like. Who knows?

You are tall and handsome—and probably did not get beat up in schools...

I didn't get beat up, usually.

So where does the funny part come from? Most comedians grew up with hang-ups from which their sense of humor sprang.

I grew up in a very safe, suburban Orange County—in Irvine. My theory is that there was nothing to do (laughter) and I had no real issues like danger in my life so it just allowed me to make fun of stuff in my head.

Is your comic sense genetic?

Both my mom and dad are funny. My dad was always doing pranks in high school.

Have you used your humor to get out of a tight situation in real life?

Humor is something that I constantly use, especially when I'm in a tight spot. Whew. Yeah. Most notably during my time in prison (laughter).

Do you play pranks on people?

I'm not a big practical joker. I don't like that so much but I'll enjoy a funny prank call or two.

Can you give us samples of your prank calls?

I call my wife in strange, silly voices and try to trick her. She appreciates it (laughter). But she has gotten better at figuring out that it's my voice but sometimes she's still fooled which is always very satisfying (laughter). Usually, I pretend to be a plumber or a guy from the Department of Water and Power.

Are you going to do a naked scene again like that streaking scene in "Old School"? That one was enough.

Yes, I think that was (laughter).

So are you not going to try and do it again?

Never say never but for the time being, I have no plans for naked running scenes.

Your wife won't let you do it?

She doesn't care, actually. That's the sad thing (laughter). She's fine either way.

How do you react to people coming up to you and expecting you to be funny all the time?

People do come up to you and they see a certain persona. They're expecting that. So sometimes that is hard. It's not so much that you're not in the mood to be funny but you're in a different place and you just want to hang out. But I never beat myself up too much about that. If I feel playful and want to joke around with people, then I indulge that. If I don't feel playful, I just say, hey, it was great to meet you. At first, I always felt like I was letting people down, like they're expecting jokes but then I was just being normal. I could see the look in their eyes that they were so sad (laughing). Now, I guess I don't care in a way.

We can't wait to see you as an Olympic figure skater in "Blades of Glory."

I have just seen some of the finished competition scenes and they are some of the funniest stuff I've seen in a long time. I don't know why someone hasn't made a figure-skating comedy because there's so much to make fun of.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

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	4 GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS	5 BARNYARD	6 WORLD TRADE CENTER	7 TIL I MET YOU
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LIVING STARS

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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CHRISTINE BERSOLA-BABAO

This is our fave place in our home: the center table in the living room, where Anya (or Antonia Sofia Julia) plays. This is also where we read to her, where she plays with clay, where she draws or doodles, where she "paints." The sofa (where Julius is seated in the photo) was where I used to take my morning and afternoon naps when I was pregnant with Anya, who's now a year and eight months old. Beside the sofa (behind Anya and me) is Julius' fave massage chair that our guests have also grown to love. The paintings in the background are by Ang Kiukok and Manuel Ocampo. Other fave nooks are the bedroom and kitchen.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

LEA SALONGA

While doing research, I found this book, "The No-Cry Sleep Solution" by Elizabeth Pantley. Unfortunately, parenting doesn't come with a manual, but this book is a helpful guide. Its cover blurb says it all: "Gentle ways to help your baby sleep through the night." I don't want my baby (Nicole Beverly) to cry and cry until she throws up. I want her to learn that sleep is good, that it's not traumatic. It taught me that I should put Nic in her bed when she is sleepy, not when she is sleeping. So that she'll associate falling asleep with her crib. Also, the importance of creating a routine. Make sure she knows the difference between night-time sleep and a nap. It's very practical.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

MICHAEL DE MESA

Let me introduce my babies (from left): Marshall, a Sheltie; Chanel, a Yorkie; Tiffany, a Chihuahua; and Boogie, a Shih Tzu. Boogie and Marshall are a year old. Tiffany is 11 months and Chanel, 10 months. I take care of them by loving and giving them the best. I feed them Science Diet and Natural Food (from k9 Couture, which I co-own with Hotlegs dancers Julie Reyes and Twinkle Zamora). I give them supplements, like calcium, vitamin C and iron. They also get weekly and monthly grooming—which includes a bath, fur trim, nail clip, the works. I see to it that they are always clean. They bring joy to my life and I just give them what they deserve. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

INSIDE

- **Maja Salvador's debut party**/J-3
- **LA Fashion Week** /J-2
- **Kim Flores' closet**/J-4

Rock 'n' roll styles rule at LA Fashion Week

CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA—ROCK ruled at Los Angeles Fashion Week as designer Daniella Clarke rolled out her Frankie B. line of skintight jeans and animal prints inspired by her love of music and her famous guitarist husband.

Clarke's husband, former Guns N' Roses guitarist Gilby Clarke, sat up front for the feisty spring 2007 collection, which debuted Monday night at Smashbox Studios during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week, a series of 32 shows over five days. Next to him sat their preteen daughter, the company's namesake.

"My husband is such a huge influence on me and my style," said Daniella Clarke. "I was on the road with him for years... Music has always played such a huge part in my life. I do a sexy thing, a flirty thing, with my jeans. This time I wanted to go back to my roots, my rock roots."

That Clarke did, with skinny, stretchy jeans in zebra, snakeskin and metallic prints; punk black-and-white striped jeans; and fuchsia and purple A-line minidresses. The swingy dresses picked up on a look spotted on runways in New York, Milan and Paris.

As the Velvet Underground's "Sweet Jane" and David Bowie's "Moonage Daydream" pounded overhead, models strutted by, looking ready for a rowdy night on the Sunset Strip, Guns N' Roses' old prowling ground.

"There's a lot of glitter and gold, loud colors," she said. "Just really fun. Rock 'n' roll provides the freedom to do what you want."

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2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 TILL I MET YOU
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5 TXT

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2 (8:00) TILL I MET YOU
3 (7:15) WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (6:45 & 9:15) THE GUARDIAN
5 (6:00 & 8:30) THE BANQUET
6 (6:00 & 8:00) WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 (8:00) THE DEPARTED
8 (10:15) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
9 (7:45) BARANG
10 (9:30) TXT

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341527
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3 (10:30) WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 (10:45) TILL I MET YOU

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tel 7334228
1 (2:00) BANQUET
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 BARANG

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
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2 TXT
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

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2 TILL I MET YOU
3 BARANG

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2 TILL I MET YOU

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (10:30) DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 (8:15) TXT
4 BARANG

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1 TXT
2 FLY BOYS

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2 (2:00) WORLD TRADE CENTER
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4 (2:00) EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

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2 (2:00) TILL I MET YOU
3 (2:00) THE DEPARTED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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2 (2:00) THE DEPARTED
3 (2:15) THE BREED
4 TXT

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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2 TILL I MET YOU
3 (2:00) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

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(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 (2:00) TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 (2:00) THE BREED

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1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 (4:00) TXT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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2 TXT

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2 THE DEPARTED

Lianas Cinema
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1 (5:00) BARANG
2 BABASAGING KRISTAL
3 MAPAO BIGAY
4 (2:00) THE DEPARTED

Lianas MovieCity
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2 PERLAS
3 (2:15) THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL
5 TXT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT

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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 3:30 / 7:30
TILL I MET YOU 12:20 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
MY FIRST WEDDING 2:30 / 5:30 / 9:30
THE DEPARTED 3:20 / 6:30 / 9:40
BARNYARD 2:30 / 6:50 / 9:00
THE GUARDIAN 12:10 / 4:30 / 7:40
WORLD TRADE CENTER 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:15
MALL 5
TXT 2:15 / 3:40 / 6:05 / 8:30
TILL I MET YOU 12:10 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
BARANG 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
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Maja's 18 candles

HER GAL pals, led by Kaye Abad (second from left), fete Maja with 18 treasures.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHIT RAMOS

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

PROMISING YOUNG ACTRESS MAJA SALvador had three coming-out parties—on the ABS-CBN TV shows "ASAP '06" and "Home Boy" and at an intimate gathering of family and friends held at the Gazebo Royale in Quezon City.

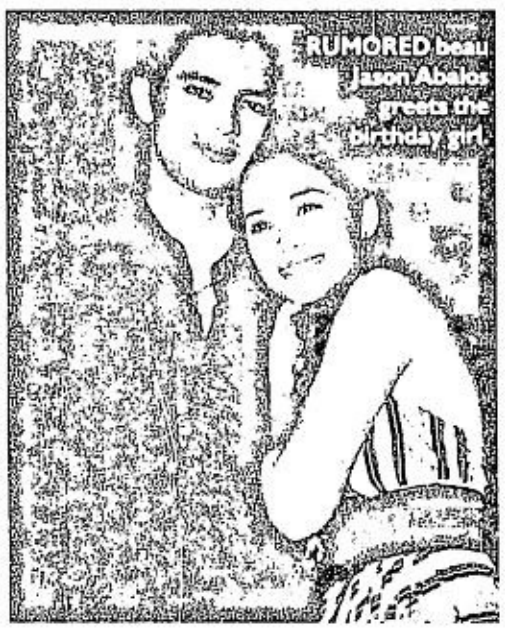
The debutante could've danced all night on Oct. 5 at the Gazebo—and she made certain of that, in fact, by having three outfits on standby.

Maja wanted to veer away from a conventional debut.

"Instead of a formal cotillion, I wanted a party that was casual and fun. Instead of 18 roses and candles, I had 18 bracelets and treasures. Instead of cake, I had cupcakes," she recounted.

Her fellow ABS-CBN stars John Lloyd Cruz, Denise Laurel, Carla Humphries and Kaye Abad were on hand to celebrate the milestone. But Maja's most special guest that evening, apart from parents Ross Rival and Thelma Andres, is rumored boyfriend and "First Day High" co-star Jason Abalos.

"She wasn't keen on throwing a party. But she realized that it only comes once in a lifetime. She felt special because it was her first big party," manager Chit Ramos said.



DEBUTANTE with her mom Thelma.

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THE BANQUET PG13 1:50,4:30,7:10,9:50	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00	WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:20,4:55,7:30,10:05

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KIM owns over a hundred plastic and paper bags and knows if one of them is missing.

Guess who hoards *tags and plastic bags*

KIM'S interest in singing began at 2, when she started imitating performers she sees on TV.

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

WHILE OTHER GIRLS HER AGE choose to collect shoes, toys or cosmetics, 16-year-old singer Kim Flores is a collector of plastic bags and clothes tags.

"I keep all the tags and plastic bags of clothes I buy. I've been collecting them since I was 12. I know not many people do this. This sort of helps me keep track of all the stuff I've bought and received over the years," Kim told Living Stars during a visit to the Flores home in Parañaque City.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Kim is one of the 23 performers who represented the country to the 10th World Championships of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Hollywood, California, in September. She brought home two plaques and five gold medals, including the one called Industry Award for Music-Overall Junior Division for Solo Vocals for ages 5 to 15.

The WCOPA is dubbed as the Olympics of the Performing Arts. Out of 4,000 delegates, the Philippine contingent brought home more than 50 awards in vocal, instrumental, dance and acting events.

"When I become super successful, I plan to collect kitchen stuff," said the teener, referring to cooking tools and equipment. "I enjoy cooking like my mom."

The singing champ said she also dreamed of having a place of her own, "with a bigger bedroom and with walls painted with rainbow colors. Everything would be there, my computer desk, a couch, TV, storage for all my shoes and a bathroom of my own."

DRESSES

The pink dress by Eric Pineda was what I wore during the Parade of the Nations for the competition.

This dress (shows a beaded red two-piece with rainbow-colored sequins) was what I wore during the championship. It's memorable to me because I wore this while I sang my winning piece, "With One Look," from "Sunset Boulevard."

MEDALS/TROPHIES

These were from all the contests and events I joined in school. It's so funny how I won my most recent award just last February (shows a plaque for the Early Bird Award she got when she attended her junior-senior prom).

The collection of sashes was from all the beauty pageants I joined in school, plus those that I used as muse of teams in intramurals.

JACKETS

I wear blazers to school on days when we're required to wear business attire. I bought a lot of them during that trip to the United States. I won Best in Business Attire because of these blazers.

This brown jacket is my favorite because it really makes me feel warm. I've not yet worn this outside. I'm still waiting for the perfect occasion.

VIDEO DISCS

My current favorite DVD movie is Nickelodeon's "My High School Musical," but for concert videos I like those of Beyoncé (Knowles) and Jessica (Simpson). Beyoncé is my idol when it comes to dancing, while Jessica, I idolize for her taste in clothes.

THE TEENER prefers bags that are big and sturdy.

BAGS

I don't care much about a bag's design. I buy depending on how comfortable I feel when I am using it. I like my bags big and sturdy, like the one that Gina de Venecia gave me when I sang during her birthday party.

SHOES

Most of my high-heeled shoes are gifts from my aunt in the US. I also have a few pieces bought in Vietnam. My favorite is the pink pair because I can use it with just about any outfit.

For rubber shoes, I like the one from Baby Phat. But the shoes that I really treasure the most are my leather boots that I had especially made in Marikina. I thought of the design and picked the fabric myself.

PANTS

My favorite pair of jeans is from Betsy Johnson. I had beads sewn on it so I could use it for shows. It looks perfect when the lights onstage reflect on the beads.

COSMETICS

The brand I prefer is Clinique. I like how it makes my cheeks shimmer. When it comes to lipsticks, I use this shade of pink from Christian Dior. Escada's Sexy Grafiti is probably the sweetest scent I have. For going to the mall, I just use my Mary Kate & Ashley perfume. It's perfect for teenagers.

TAGS

I used to have more, but my mom accidentally threw them away. *Akala niya basura*. I don't think many people collect tags. I've been doing tags since I was 12 years old.

PLASTIC/PAPER BAGS

I started collecting only recently. I throw away bags with designs or prints that I don't like. I can remember every bag that I own. I also know if one is missing. My favorites are those from Disneyland because they're very colorful.

SHE collects tags to keep track of all the stuff she has bought over the years.

My Concert Diary

The WINSTON IN CONCERT Series strike a major chord with music lovers — five years and running

by Dan Rolando

How long should a local concert last? An hour? Two? Till midnight? Overnight? Maybe three days tops, if there are enough bands.

Dude, that's nothing. Try 6 years – straight!

Winston in CONCERT

Than the past years, like an unstoppable 18-wheeler truck barreling full speed along the Expressway. Gone-a-way!

OK, OK, to be fair, the performances aren't done on an everyday basis. Best to think of it like the right mix of fast for delayed gratification: the anticipation of an upcoming treat is all part of the whole experience. Still, going to a gig or two a week for almost a year does add up to a lot of unforgettable music experiences. Plus a lot of late feet and even more party-hearty nights. But who cares, right? It's just rock and roll. And, boy, do we like how it sounds!

Of all the consecutive years in the WINSTON IN CONCERT Series' stabilized run, 2000 stands among the bands' THE coolest, wackiest and big-ballin' by partnering not just the biggest group in local music scene but also placed them up against dominant act with unmistakable appeal and potential. Alternative pop-rock, prog-rock, punk-rock, reggae, ska, 80's tribute, 70's tribute, retro party-hit, you-drop-it-he-rock-it, local hero, all was left untouched. Best of all, the bands and kept coming back year after year, increasing numbers.

Still, the best part of the whole experience? Still going to a gig or two a week for almost a year does add up to a lot of unforgettable music experiences. Plus a lot of late feet and even more hoppity-hearty nights. But who cares, right? It's just rock and roll. And, boy, do we like how it sounds!

YEAR 2000, STARTING WITH A BANG!

The year that WINSTON came out with a bold mission: to establish the brand as the ultimate weekend party company. What's not to like? Starting off with a really good guitar solo, you couldn't help but want more and later. And so it came about that for the next three years as the first batch of bands of that time played, the clamor for more appearances of their favorite acts was their most popular request of all. More dates were set, more venues were booked, and the concert party began rolling on the road for the next three years.

YEAR 2003, THE LIVE VIBE STARTS TO EXTEND NATION-WIDE

The WINSTON IN CONCERT NIGHT LIGHT NIGHTS National Tour was born. The feel-good jams, the unforgettable arrangements, the foot-stomping renditions of songs performed live took place not just in Manila but for the first time also in key cities in the North and South.

YEAR 2004, MAKING WAVES!

Bigger, bolder and louder than ever, the WINSTON IN CONCERT AMPLIFIED TOUR not only did the rounds of clubs and venues in almost every major shopping city from tipping over to the country's new summer capital. Yes, that's right! We are talking about Boracay, baby! Home of the finest white sand, and now, a better than ever party scene. The BORACAY SUMMER MUSIC BLAST was born and has become a fixture on the party circuit.

YEAR 2005, ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Most bands were signed up, so much so that even other companies were trying to get on the bandwagon, but not one came even close to the WINSTON ROAD ROCKS series' combined music, cities and venues.

And much like the year before, all musical roads led to the 3rd WINSTON IN CONCERT MUSIC BLAST (which pretty much more than lived up to its moniker). It was wild, wild, WILD! Imagine this for the encore: All your favorite bands! Check. Sharing one stage? Double check. And performing your favorite songs together? Triple check! Sheer perfection, wouldn't you agree? Definitely a perfect ending to a party hard year.

2006: CONQUERING NEW HEIGHTS!

Barely 10 months old in the new year, fireworks could be blazing across Philippine skies and the WINSTON IN CONCERT series' team breaking down doors, taking names, kicking butt and making noise. With its 2006 WINGS TOUR, no set spots were being rocked with Manila as the logical point and the bands touching ground at every last stop in Davao, San Fernando, Olongapo, Marawi, Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo.

And like any good song that you want to hear more than once, WINSTON rocked the year with its 2nd MUSIC BLAST. This time featuring not just one, but four days between (!) bands which performed at the yearlong concert series' party. Holy Hendrix, it was definitely one for the memories.

YEAR 2005, ON THE ROAD AGAIN

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And just what's been doing the rounds the past years: Bamboo Sandwich, The Dawn, Parokya ni Edgar, Imago, Eraserheads, Yeng Constantino, Sugarfree, Freestyle, Itchyworms, Hotshots, Joel Tandoy, Kuwan, Eheads, Cueshe, Slapshock and many more. Yes, you've seen them live.

On and on it goes, the WINGS TOUR even has a way to keep party-hearty concerts going right into the night. And what's the perfect (blurred) ending to a concert (boomerang)? Of course, the WINSTON hit count everybody in singing the scene to what I love body clock is aligned with countless partying across the world. You still have the right to rock and join the fun.

Government Cigarette smoking is

Winston

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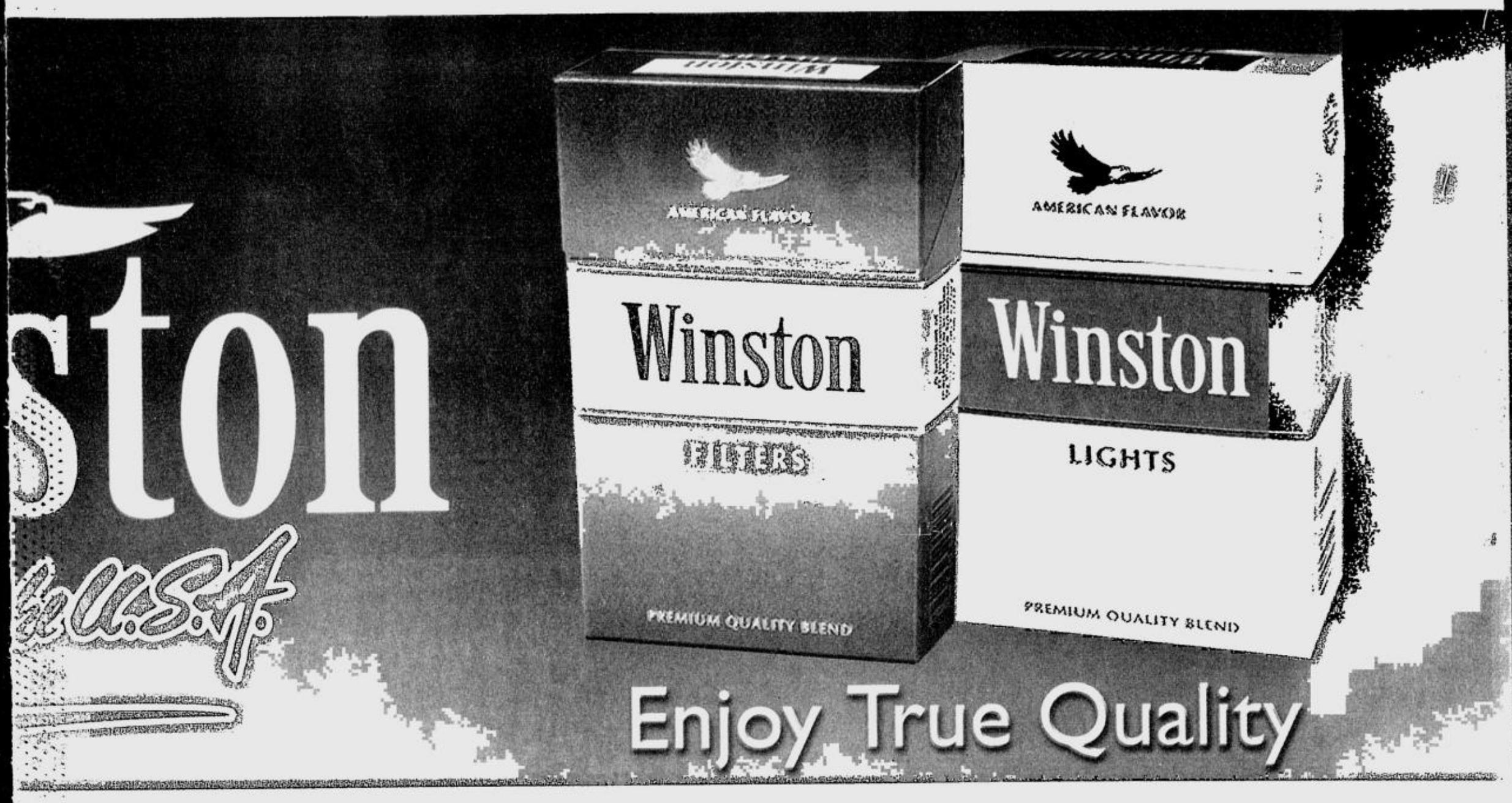
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Whoops, almost forgot to mention, Jack say again, Yep, WINSTON had yet another MUSIC BLAST on those shores as big name bands once again touched base with their fans. Make you want to mark your 2007 calendars this early. 'Cuz it's to be part of this new annual musical biggie from WINSTON, you can never be too prepared.

Speaking of calendars, what's up next for the WINSTON IN CONCERT Series? Let's just say that if you think the past five years raised it to 10 on the musical Richter scale, then it's time to get a new scale. One thing's for sure, though - you wouldn't want to be left out. So keep your eyes peeled to the papers and your ears glued to your radio, because WINSTON's only just begun to rock your world!!!

Winston Brings in Heavenly Sounds to Manila!

INQUIRER

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2006

Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Association (CREBA)

A special supplement on the 33rd Annual National Convention

CREBA's

Proactive Response to Property Trends and Opportunities

2006 CREBA NATIONAL CONVENTION
CAMP JOHN HAY, BAGUIO CITY
19-21 OCTOBER 2006

ON ITS 33RD YEAR, THE CHAMBER OF REAL Estate and Builders' Associations (Creba) holds its' Annual National Convention in Baguio City with its theme, "Proactive Response to Property Trends and Opportunities".

Creba views the annual convention as its share in the national effort of nation-building. As the acknowledged expert in the field of human settlements, it provides, through this convention, a national forum through which real estate practitioners and stakeholders address today's urbanization issues and get updated on the current issues.

For this year's convention, Creba takes a closer look on property trends and opportunities. It has partnered with five government agencies to provide updates on housing incentives, fund sources, emerging markets and tourism and retirement programs.

A second major objective of this event is to provide the forum, through social events and fellowship activities, by which Creba members can get together and enjoy each other's company in camaraderie and friendship as an effective means of uniting the Filipino people, including those residing in other countries. Creba has organized chapters in the United States and other parts of the world.

Every participant in the convention is certain to pick up new ideas, which could help business and be an instrument of positive change in the different regions.

Decent shelters can empower a nation. This is one truth that keeps Creba united and steadfast for the sake of the present and future generations. Yet another truth that has dawned the past years is that helping the government resolve the housing problem has become a long and arduous struggle for Creba.

And so, while it can take pride in what it has done for three decades, Creba continues to train its attention on the challenges of the real estate industry, pushing for reforms, drawing up proposals and mustering might to galvanize plans into action. The new administration of Creba is faced with the challenges of the past and new ones as well. Facing challenges has been Creba's cup of tea and will remain so.

Creba's dream is to see the dawning of the age of shelter security for all Filipinos. The vision saw a ray of light 30 years ago. It has been an uphill battle for Creba, yet it remains undaunted in pursuing cooperative, creative and viable endeavors to make it easier for every Filipino family to own a home. Creba has contributed its share in helping build the Philippines through housing and community development.

Unlike other nations, however, the country's problems seem to get more daunting. While the private sector, has tried its best in partnering with government, a genuine and meaningful partnership with government appears elusive.

Creba, therefore, must do a lot more than what it is merely expected. Its initiatives and advocacies for reforms should transcend the real estate industry. It seems indispensable that Creba must also concern itself not just with the economic aspect but also the social and political framework to which its industry is inseparably linked.

The following should be addressed: population control; peace and order; poverty alleviation; corruption; rationalization of land reform and land use; global competitiveness; charter change through a constituent assembly towards opening to foreigners land ownership, operation of public utilities and exploitation of natural resources, subject to certain conditions, that would be established the lot of the poor may be uplifted and hopefully a strong middle class; the switch from presidential to parliamentary form to make government more responsive; amendment of the Central Bank charter to make it development oriented; and other related economic reforms.

MESSAGES

Republic of the Philippines
Malacañan Palace
Manila

Warmest greetings to all the members, officers, and guests of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. (CREBA) as you hold the Annual National Convention in cooperation with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Tourism (DOT), Board of Investments (BOI), and Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA).

I laud the real estate sector, particularly your contribution to the socio-economic stability of our country and for providing decent homes to thousands of Filipinos. This convention is an excellent opportunity for members and non-members to catch up on new technologies in real estate management and urban economics.

Your theme, "Proactive Response to Property Trends and Opportunities," is truly relevant because it complements my administration's goal of providing homes to every family. May you also remain ever mindful of your important role in our country as active stakeholders in national reform and development.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council is pleased to partner with the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations, Inc. on its National Convention for the year 2006, which will center on important issues that are vital to the further growth of the real estate industry in the country.

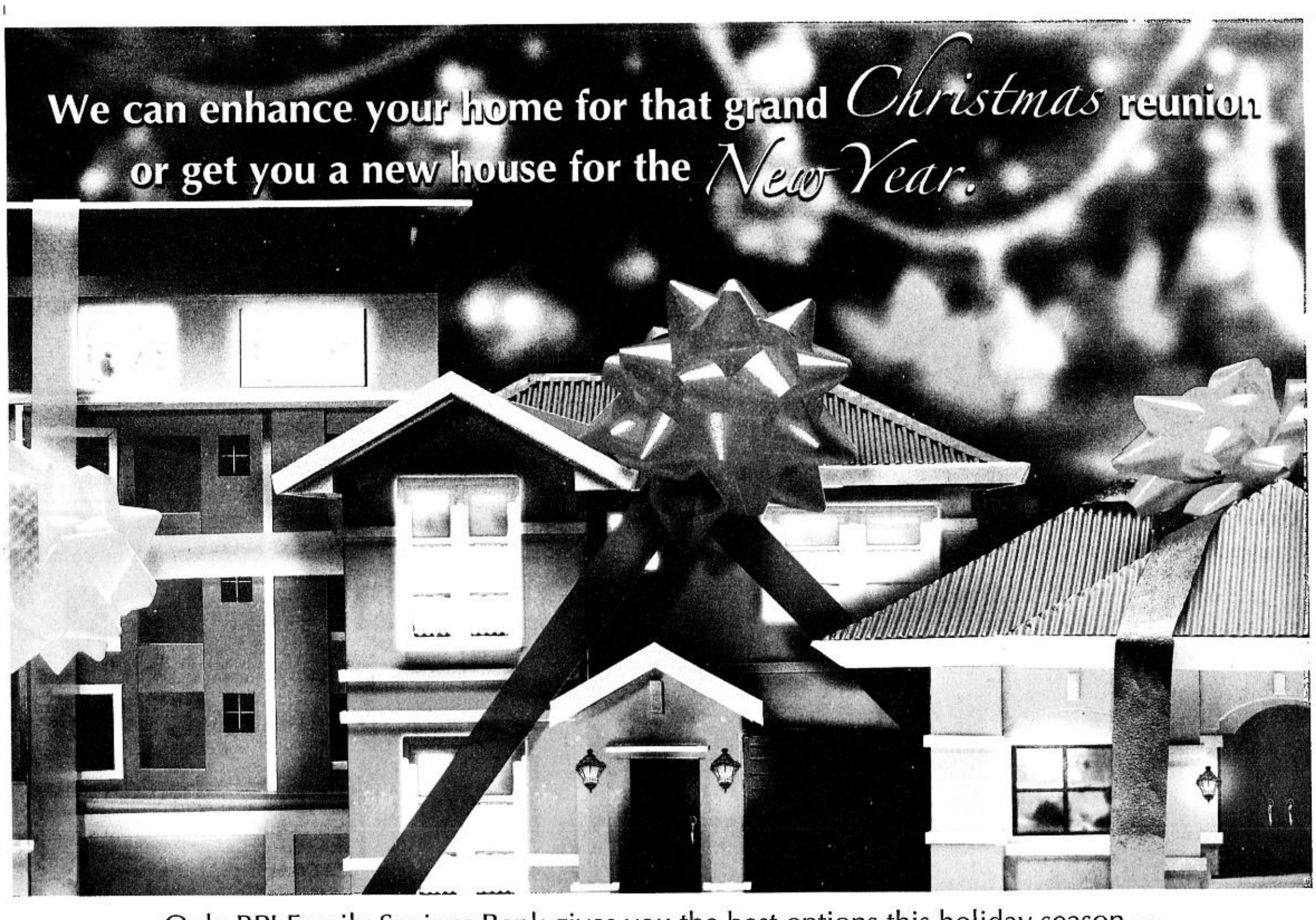
Once again, CREBA affirms its position as the guardian of the real estate sector, demonstrating its commitment to the continued vibrancy and expansion of the industry as it steers this important event towards an exploration of timely subjects: incentives for developments projects, funding sources and emerging business opportunities.

With the private sector taking on a bigger role, we expect housing and real estate to make greater progress not only in meeting the shelter needs of Filipino family, but also in contributing to the acceleration of our country's economic development. This is an opportunity we cannot afford to pass up.

I am counting on the continued support of CREBA and all its members, which we have always been able to count on, as we strive to move the housing sector and the entire further forward.

Mabuhay!

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO
Chairman, HUDCC



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A PHILIPPINE NEWSPAPER FOR FILIPINOS

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VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO
Chairman, HUDCC

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

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	NATHANIEL VON EINSIEDEL	Luncheon: Day 2
	CATHY D. YULO	Talent Night
	JAIME A. CURA	Gala Night
	AVELINA P. ACUÑA	Gala Night
	LYNN B. MACEDA	CREBA Chorale
	PABLO PANLILIO, JR.	Dance Competition
	JANCE COSALAN	Family Day

MESSAGES

CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE AND BUILDERS' ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

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PEDRO C. TARIO
National President

CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE AND BUILDERS' ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

Greeting from the 2006 CREBA National Convention chairmen and members.

In our era of borderless trade and commerce, it is imperative that the Philippine real estate industry be cognizant of its comparative advantages, as well as the impediments and weaknesses that obstruct its way to greater progress and competitiveness.

The theme "Proactive Response to Property Trends and Opportunities" poses the challenge of the 2006 CREBA National Convention. Once again, CREBA as the umbrella organization of the Philippine real estate industry, convenes Philippine property stakeholders to build-up on our accomplishments and to assess and continue to look inward to make us even more prepared for the challenges ahead.

The focal points of the conferences are incentives for developers to encourage investment and development, emerging property markets and our positioning, and the fund source infrastructure needed to pursue a sustained real estate development program. The convention will wind-up with a plenary session where resolutions and action agenda will be approved and turned-over to concerned agencies for action.

Allow me to express my thanks and appreciation to our convention partners – the Housing and Urban Dev't Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Tourism (DOT), Board of Investments (BOI), and the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA), for their full support and commitment in putting together the various conferences. Credit should also go to our sponsors, lead by Boysen, R-II Builders, and Crown Asia; our media partner, the Philippine Daily Inquirer; our convention host, the CREBA Region I consisting of Baguio, La Union, Pangasinan and Ilocos, and the various committee chairmen, members and the secretariat. They are the backbones and the spirit behind this convention.

Welcome to the 2006 CREBA National Convention! We have prepared for you three days of business and fun!

TECHIE P. BAUTISTA
Overall Chair

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EXTERRA

CREBA honors the Filipino talents

ON DEC. 14, THE CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE Builders Association, the umbrella organization of the real estate and housing industry in the country, honors the Filipino talents who have given pride and honor to the Philippines.

Panalo Ka! a tribute to Filipino champions, will feature the exemplary talents of Jeremie Antiporda, the world champion for vocals at the 2006 World Championships of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, California; the All Star Hip Hop dancers, crowned world champions in hip hop dancing in Torino, Italy and Los Angeles California; Sam Concepcion, the Litthe Big Star champion displaying laudable talent in singing and dancing at such an early age; and the Quezon City Performing Arts Development Foundation, composed of children from indigent families in Quezon City, but have received numerous awards in the local dance scene.

Hoping to hit two birds with one stone, Panalo Ka! a tribute to Filipino champions is also a concert for a cause with target beneficiaries such as the landslide victims in Guinsaugon, St. Bernard, Southern Leyte.

Come and experience a magical night with our champions and celebrate the great Filipino talent on Dec. 14, at the AFP theater at 6:30 pm with special guests: Christian Bautista, Rica Peralejo, Karylle, the Sugar Free band, Joross Gamboa, Melissa Ricks, Charie Pineda and Tyrone Perez.

Tickets will be sold at 1,000; 800; 500 & 300. For reservations please call the CREBA Secretariat at **373-2270/72**. For sponshorship inquiries please call Basic Elements Inc. at **637-3210/11.**

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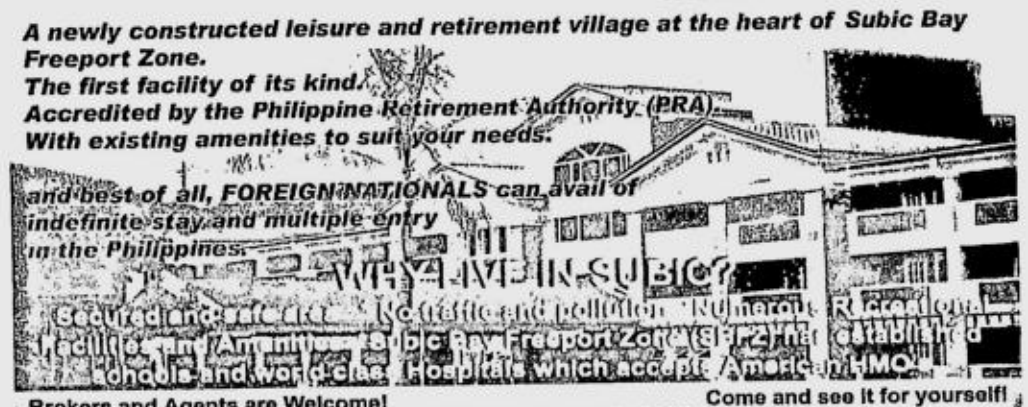

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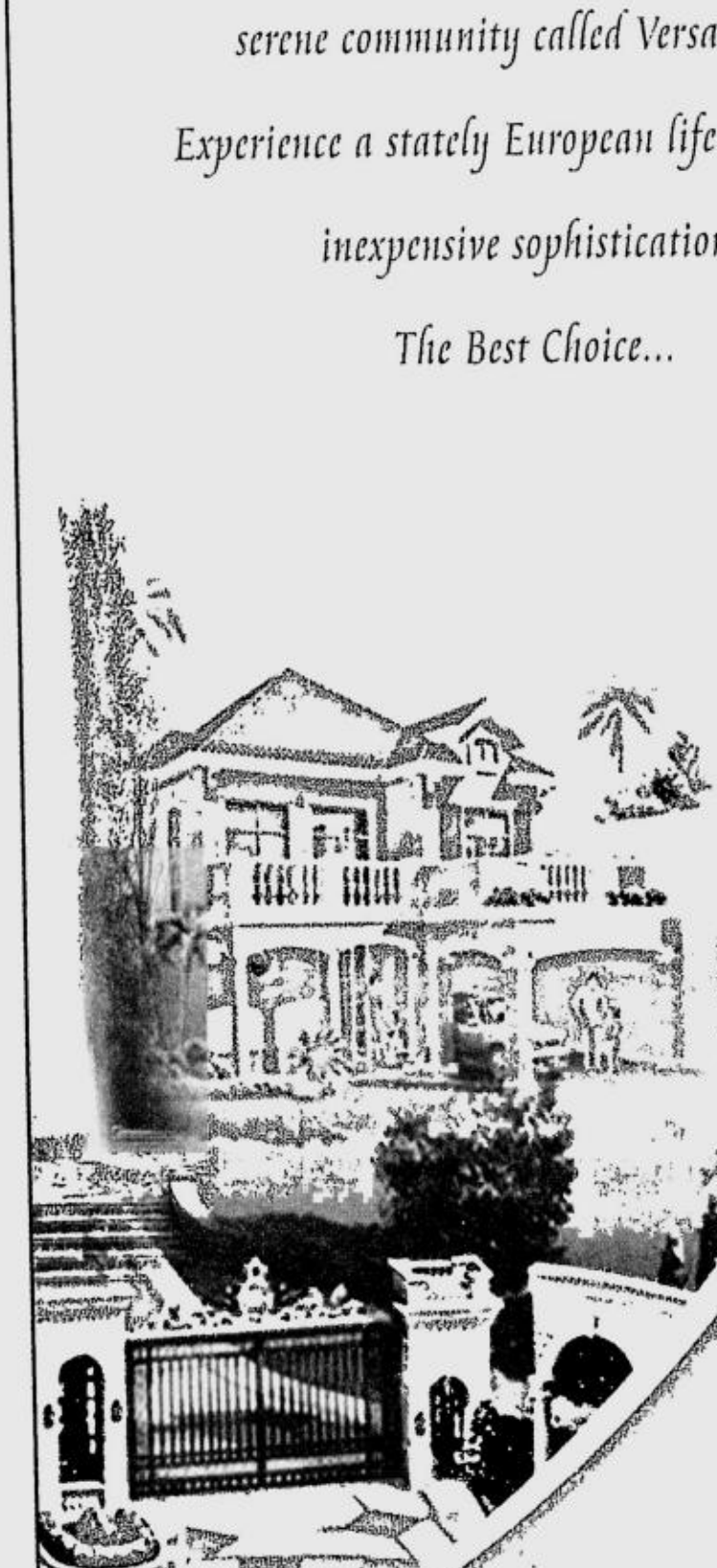

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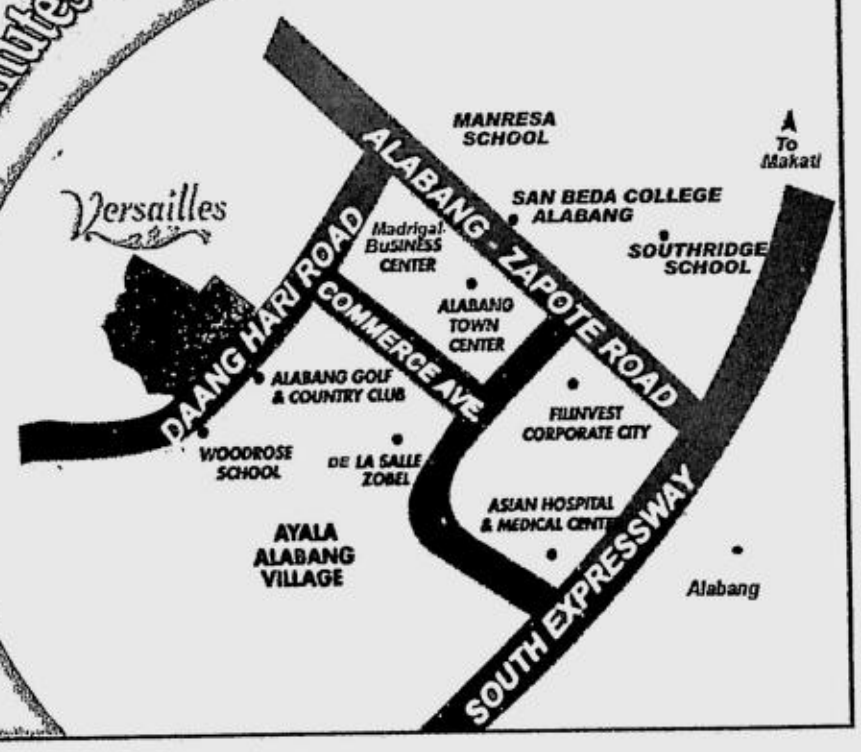

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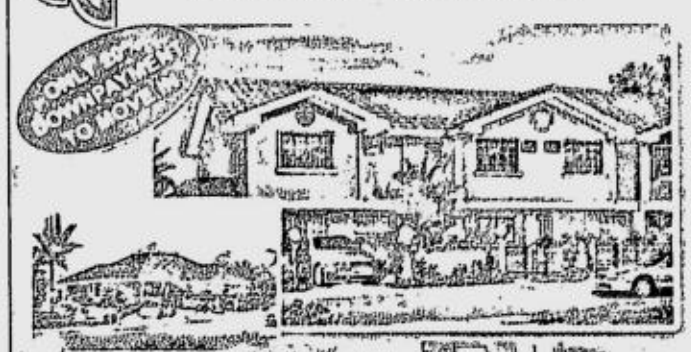

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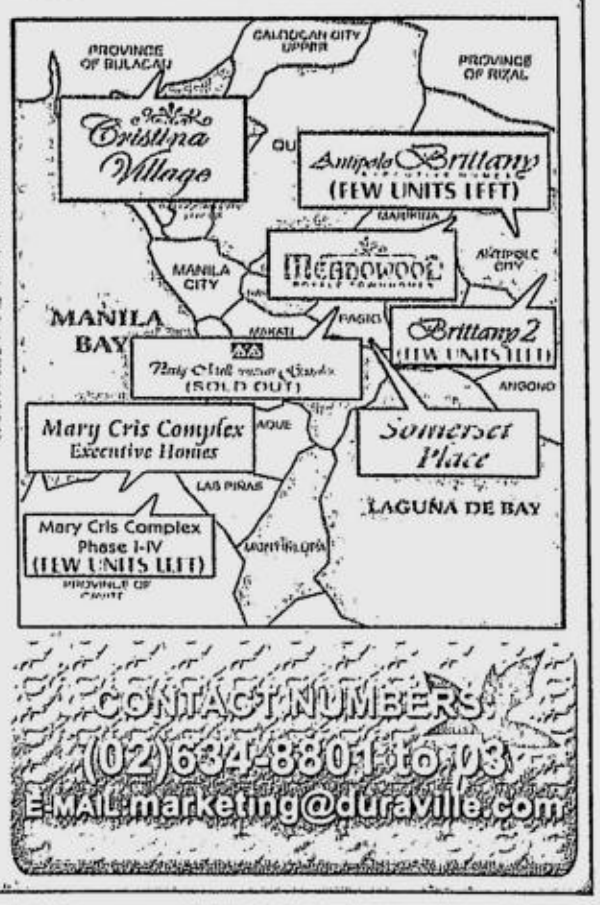

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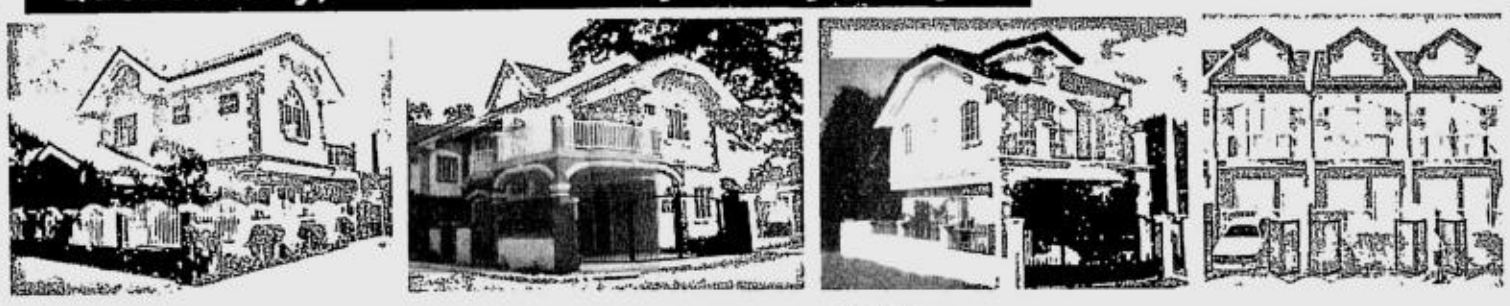

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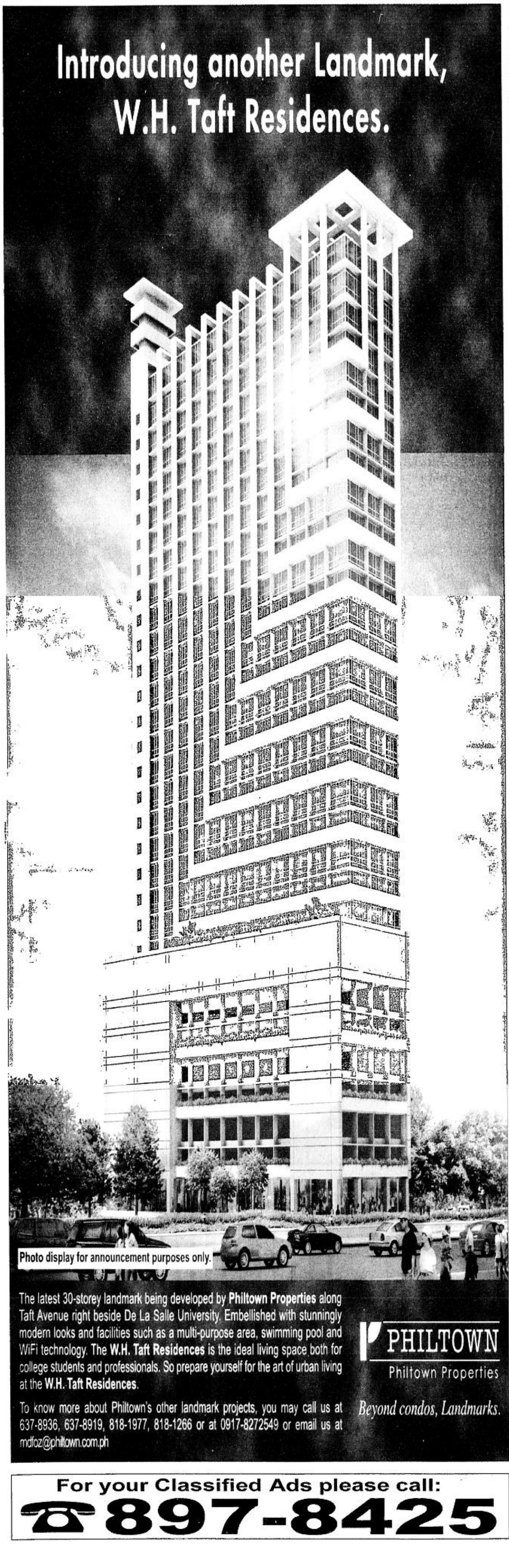

VP Noli vows to improve housing finance system

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI "KABAYAN" DE Castro vows to transform housing finance in the country into a more robust system that will serve as the backbone for sustainable housing and he wants to do it in three years' time.

The Vice President, who concurrently chairs the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), made this statement at the recent National Developers Convention jointly hosted by HUDCC and the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, Inc. (SHDA) in Davao City.

De Castro also ordered the Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) to fast track the disposition of its non-performing assets to back-up its maturing obligations and beef up its guaranty capacity.

He directed the National Housing Authority (NHA) to pursue serious plans on all its prime assets to earn revenues on its properties, and to improve its collection efficiency.

In line with the convention, De Castro earlier opened the Davao leg of the Housing Fair 2006 to kick off the celebration of National Shelter Month. The highlight of the Fair is the sale of over 60,000 foreclosed housing units from the shelter agencies and government financial institutions to government employees at low interest rates and longer repayment periods.

The Housing Fair will also be held simultaneously at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati and the Ayala Center in Cebu City on October 27 to 28.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

DAY 1: 19 OCTOBER, Thursday

6 am CREBA Golf Tournament
Baguio Country Club Tee off: 7:00 - 9:00 am
9 am Registration / Courtesy Call & City Tour
2 pm **CONFERENCE 1: INCENTIVES**
"BOI & PEZA Incentives for Real Estate Development Projects"
- Executive Director RAUL V. ANGELES, Board of Investments
- Manager ELMER SAN PASCUAL, Investment & Promotions, PEZA

Reactors:
- Dir. JUAN B. NGALOB, NEDA-CAR

Rapporteur:
- OIC TERESO PANGA, Zone Administration, PEZA
- REYNALDO LIGNES, BOI

2 pm Chapter Orientation Workshop
- VP EUGENE C. YU, CREBA Chapter Affairs

5 pm Opening of Exhibits & Sponsors' Night
- Cong. MAURICIO & REBECCA DOMOGAN - Ribbon Cutting

7 pm Welcome Dinner, Talent Show & Dance Competition

DAY 2: 20 OCTOBER, Friday

6 am Buffet Breakfast
9 am **OPENING CEREMONIES & KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Entry of Colors
Invocation
National Anthem
CREBA Hymn
Call to Order & Opening Remarks
- National President PEDRO C. TARIO, CREBA

Welcome Remarks
- MAYOR REINALDO A. BAUTISTA, JR., Baguio City

Overview of the Convention
- Overall Chair TECHIE P. BAUTISTA, CREBA Convention 2006

Keynote Speech
HON. ARTHUR G. YAP
Dir. Gen., PMS & Head, Mega Region for Northern Luzon

12 nn **LUNCHEON with VP NOLI DE CASTRO**
"Government's Agenda to Encourage Accelerated Dev't. and Local & Foreign Investments"
To be introduced by HUDCC Usec. Lucille Ortile
"The North & South Railway System as New Highways for RE Dev't."
- Usec. GUILING MAMONDIONG, DOTC

2 pm **CONFERENCE 2: PROPERTY MARKETS**
"Retirement and Tourism Programs, and the Dual Citizenship Law as Products for Philippine Property Markets"
- Chairman GEN. EDGAR B. AGLIPAY, PRA
- Director ELIZABETH NELLE, DOT
- Vice-Chairman GENEROSO G. CALONGE, DFA

Reactors:
- President ERNESTO M. ORDOÑEZ, PRI
- Mr. ALFRED BURGOS, JR. / Ms. PERLA E. REMPE
- Sec. RODOLFO LUMIBAO, Fleet Reserve Association Branch 247

Rapporteur:
- Director ERIC ELNAR, PRA

4 pm "Business Opportunities in Region One"
- Director FLORANTE O. LEAL, DTI-Region 1

Reactors:
- Usec. ERNIE A. MENDOZA II, NLGQA-Region I
- Director MARTIN VALERA, DOT-Region I

Rapporteur:
- Ms. ROWENA DINEROS, HUDCC

7 pm Gala Night featuring the CREBA Chorale
Special Guests:
Congressman EDUARDO C. ZIALCITA with Region 1 Governors, Congressmen, Mayors, Businessmen, and the Academe
Attire: Barong Tagalog/Suit * Long Gown/Native Costume

DAY 3: 21 OCTOBER, Saturday

6 am Buffet Breakfast
9 am **CONFERENCE 3: FUND SOURCES**
"ADB-Funded DPUCSP Projects"
- Team Leader JOJIE REYES, DPUCSP

"How to Access American Foreign Funding for Real Estate Dev't."
- Manager JUAN CARLOS MONTES, Small Business Center-OPIC

Reactor:
- Director NESTOR S. MANGIO, CREBA
- Mr. GONZALO B.A. BONGOLAN, HGC
- Mr. JOSEPH PETER SISON, NHMFC

Rapporteur:
- Manager VIRGILIO MACLANG, NHMFC

"Pag-Ibig Funding and Loans Programs for Developers"
- CEO & President Atty. ROMERO F.S. QUIMBO, HDMF *Reactor:*
- Mr. ANJO LEDESMA, CREBA
- Mr. JACK GEVELZON, DBP
- Deputy Director General NESTOR R. MIJARES, NEDA

Rapporteur:
- Director ZACKY ABANES, HUDCC

12 nn LUNCHEON w/ Speaker Jose C. De Venecia, Jr.
"Real Estate Legislative Agenda & Major Investment Programs"
Special Guest:
- H.E. LI JIN JUN, Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines

2 pm Approval of Convention Resolutions for Turn-over to Concerned Agencies
7 pm DANCING & RAFFLE

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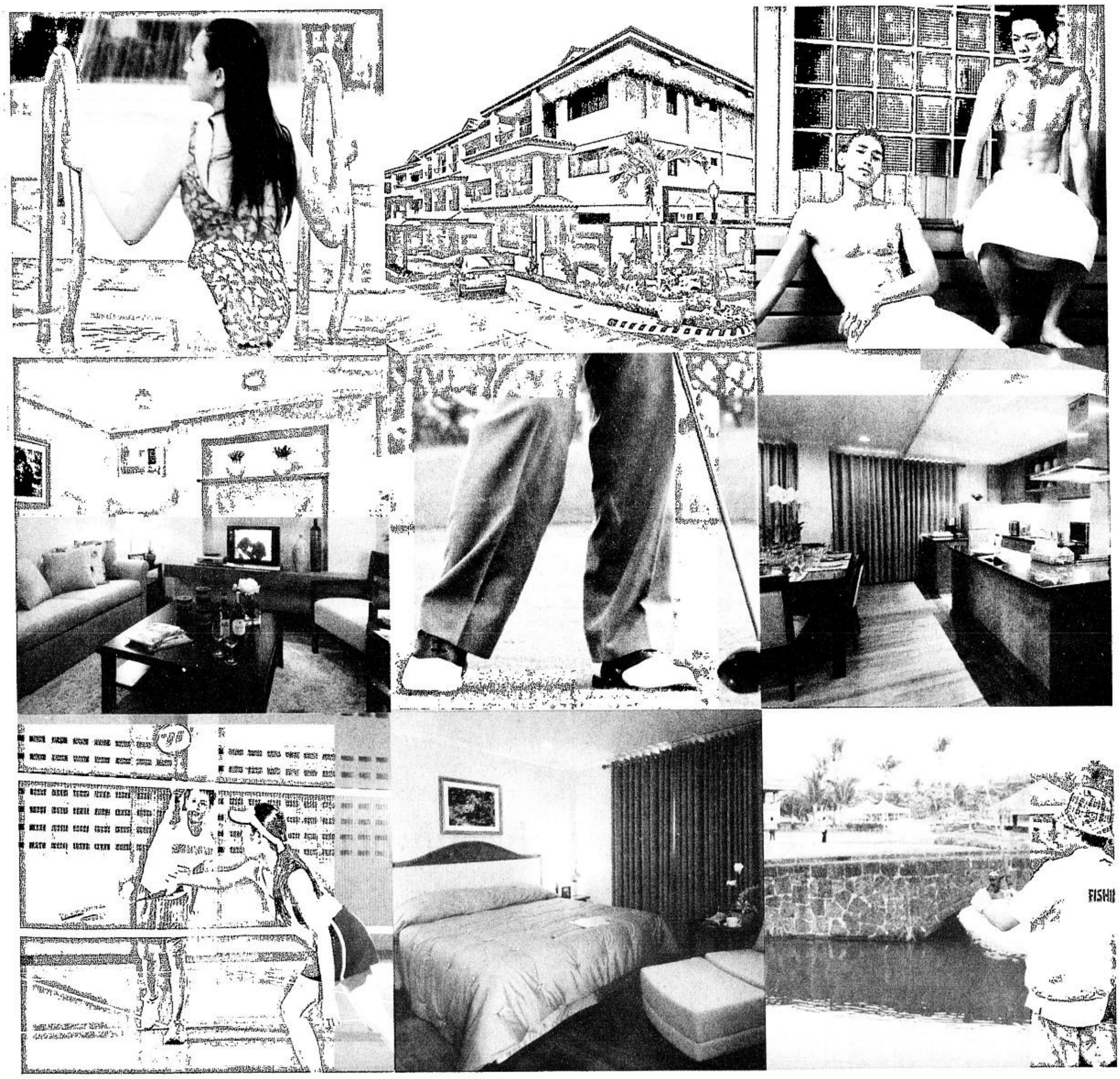

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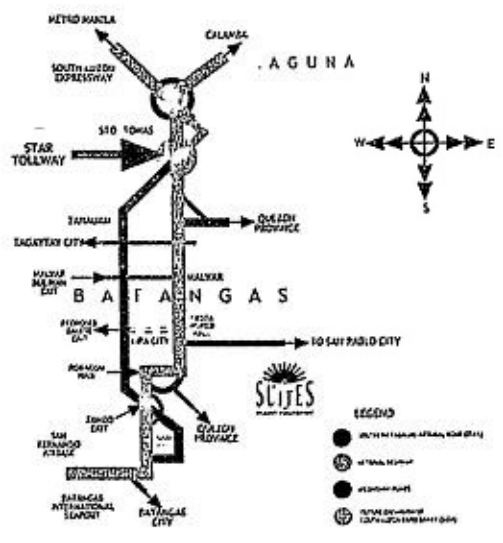

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Filipina is lone girl in Cyber Games finals

MONZA, ITALY—SOME MAY CALL THEM GEEKS.

But when they log on they become cyber warriors, fighting for survival against alien civilizations, enemy races and war lords.

With nicknames ranging from Paranoid to DigitalMind, 700 online players from 70 countries gathered in Monza, north of Milan, on Thursday to compete in the 2006 World Cyber Games.

But only one girl, Mitzie Valerie Eusebio from

FILIPINA/ A19

Binay told: It ain't over

Gov't to seek immediate lifting of 60-day TRO

By Armand N. Nocum and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MAKATI CITY MAYOR JEJOmar Binay may have won a reprieve from the Court of Appeals but insofar as Malacañang's top advisers are concerned, he has not yet escaped the axe.

The Office of the Solicitor General yesterday served notice it would seek an immediate lifting of the 60-day temporary restraining order issued by the court, which stopped the Palace from suspending Binay.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, for his part, said the court's action was "erroneous" and that it had overstepped its boundaries.

Gonzalez said he found the most glaring was the scope of the TRO.

"The TRO was supposed to only suspend the suspension of Binay but it also ordered that we should stop the investigation," he said.

"They should not do that because Binay was only asking for a TRO to suspend the suspension. The order went beyond that as it stated that all proceedings insofar as Binay is concerned should be stopped."

Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura said the Department of the Interior and Local Government was now preparing documents needed to make its case against Binay stick, but gave no specific details.

BINAY/ A8

THEY WON'T DANCE, COPS WON'T BUDGE
Militants mostly from the National Capital Region and Southern Tagalog are blocked away from Mendiola at the corner of Recto Ave. and Nicanor Reyes St. They protest the government's continuing efforts to change the Constitution and burn an effigy of President Arroyo portrayed as a rat because "she has been gnawing at the Constitution."

People's initiative: Last hope to Cha-cha

By Christine O. Avendaño and Juliet Labog-Javellana

SHOULD THE SUPREME COURT DEcide next week to shoot down the people's initiative to amend the Constitution, it will spell the end to the campaign for Charter change, according to a leader of one of the proponents of the signature drive.

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesperson of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), yesterday said this was his personal assessment of the situation. He said he did not think another mode for Charter change—convening Congress into a constituent assembly to tackle the proposed amendments—would be able to take off.

"Con-ass (constituent assembly) will be a lost cause if we lose this [court] battle because the momentum will die down, election fever will set in, the campaign will already be in the people's minds," Evardone told reporters during a birthday lunch at the Palace for Gabriel Claudio, President Macapagal-Arroyo's political adviser.

Evardone was referring to preparations for the May 2007 mid-term elections, which include the senatorial race.

"We are hoping the Supreme Court

PEOPLE'S/ A5

Ice Age dwarf carabao bones from RP found

CHICAGO—RESEARCHERS SAY A BOX of bones left at a museum here a decade ago by a curious layman have turned out to contain the only known fossil remains of a dwarf water buffalo that roamed the Philippines in the last ice age.

"People bring in stuff all the time," said Larry Heaney, the curator of mammals at the city's Field Museum.

"Most of the time, it turns out to be chicken or pork chop bone. This time it was of real scientific interest."

The new species, described in the October issue of the Journal of Mammalogy, has been named *Bubalus cebuensis* after Cebu, where the bones were first discovered by a mining engineer in 1958.

That engineer, Michael Armas, held onto the bones for nearly 40 years, showing them to a series of people who were stumped by his find. Finally, in 1995, he showed them to a Chicago doctor, Hamilcar Intengan, who suggested Armas let

ICE AGE/ A7

Fading fast, vets press gov't on ₱42-B back pay

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

PALO, LEYTE—IN THE TWILIGHT OF their lives and their numbers diminishing every year, World War II veterans have been hoping for the government's swift release of their monetary benefits, particularly the arrears in their old age pension.

But the main speakers in the commemorative program held yesterday morning at the MacArthur Shrine at Red Beach in Palo to mark the 62nd anniversary of the Leyte Gulf Landings made no mention of the veterans' long overdue benefits.

It was only during the Veterans Sunrise Ceremony held at around 5 a.m. at the Monument of the Unknown Soldier, about

FADING / A7

SKY'S THE LIMIT. Lucio Tan, chair of Philippine Airlines, shows President Arroyo a model of the Airbus A319 at the Lufthansa Technik hangar in Villamor Air Base. As part of its P840-million refleeting program, the country's flag carrier is acquiring eight such wide-bodied planes for international routes to expand to US destinations and resume flights to Europe. (*Story in Business, Page B3*)

Just married: Baby Arenas' favorite baby

By Fe Zamora

THE MUCH-VAUNTED POLITICALLY charged wedding of Roberto "Bing" Jimenez Arenas and Kristine Madrigal Ochoa at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park Thursday night turned out to be apolitical despite the gathering of heavyweights from business and politics.

The night belonged to Rosemarie " Baby" Arenas' favorite baby, her youngest child, 27-year-old Bing, a London-educated international trade consultant, who married Kristine in civil rites in January 2002. The couple has one daughter.

Shy and reserved, the young Arenas must have wanted his wedding as private as possible, and the wedding coordi-

JUST MARRIED/ A19

Meralco ordered: Don't raise power rates yet

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A CABINET-LEVEL PROBE BODY HAS ordered the Manila Electric Co. and other distribution utilities to desist from passing on to their customers the high prices of the electricity they bought from the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) until it has completed its investigation into the allegations of price fixing in the WESM.

"We told them don't pass the high cost yet until we finish. Otherwise, how will we address the concerns of the public. What they bought should not be passed on yet. That is what we will look at," said Trade Secretary Peter Favila.

Favila heads a team composed of Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez which President Macapagal-Arroyo has tasked to look into allegations that big players in the WESM have abused their dominance of the power supply and distribution markets to manipulate prices.

The WESM, created in the hope that competition between power suppliers would enable buyers to choose the best prices and thus bring down the cost of electricity, opened only last June.

But in only the first three months of operations, prices in the WESM jumped from an average of P2.88 per kilowatt hour (kWh) to P6.88 per kWh.

This prompted the Philippine Electricity Market Corp. (PEMC), the WESM operator, to launch an investigation, its suspicion falling on the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), the biggest player in the spot market.

The focus of the Favila-led investigation is the market's three major players: Meralco which buys half of its power supply from WESM; the PSALM which controls half of the country's total generating capacity; and the National Power Corp.

MERALCO/ A5

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/20/06

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

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Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Partial poll automation okayed

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IS READY to go ahead with computerized polls in selected areas in the country in the May 2007 elections.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. disclosed this yesterday following a meeting with technical consultants, representatives of information technology society and other government officials.

Being considered as pilot-test areas by the Comelec are the entire Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, the National Capital Region, and the provinces of Cebu and Batanes.

About P100 million would be needed for the pilot testing, Abalos said.

Abalos said electronic transmission of votes and consolidation could be achieved but admitted there were still problems for the automated voting and counting.

"The electronic transmission and consolidation would be easy and inexpensive, considering that these can be done even through scanners and cellphones," he said, adding that if these two stages were automated, election results would be available within 48 hours.

"We would be able to eliminate mass fraud and mass cheating because it is in the transmission of election results where there has been hijacking, substitution of election results, switching and *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and vote shaving)," he explained.

Many of the experts who attended yesterday's meeting were the same technical consultants or representatives of organizations that were part of the Comelec's advisory council that helped the election agency draft an automation plan for the 2004 elections.

These include information Technology Foundation of the Philippines president Amado Malacaman and Antonio Tinsay of the Philippine Computer Society.

Abalos said there would be an "expedited bidding" for the chosen technology and this would be tested in the May 2007 elections.

Tinsay clarified that the selection process would not be bidding.

"We are not calling on them to bid but to show their wares and what they can offer. And then we will look at what they're offering and if they're capable of providing assistance in helping us put together the complete solution that the Comelec can implement on 2007, we will talk to them and screen them," he explained.

During the meeting, Malacaman reminded that any technology that would be tested in May 2007 would not be automatically the one that would be used for subsequent elections.

"That's why it's pilot testing; there's no guarantee that it would succeed," he said.

Meanwhile, a working committee—composed of officials from Comelec and the science and education departments as well as infotech experts—was also formed to entertain and screen proposals for the automation technology next week.

The committee would be chaired by Peter Antonio Banzon, chief science and research specialist of the Department of Science and Technology, with Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra heading the committee secretariat.

Infotech service providers could form consortiums and present their joint proposal to the Banzon committee, subject to approval by the Commission en banc.

TERROR TIPSTER
Western Mindanao Command's deputy chief Brig. Gen. Francisco Callelero hands over P150,000 cash reward to a hooded informant who tipped off the military on the whereabouts of Abu Sayyaf member Isnain Aminol, who is wanted for kidnapping of hostages in Sipadan, Malaysia April 23, 2000 and Dos Palmas, Palawan on May 27, 2001. JULIE S. ALIPALA / MINDANAO

Palace suspends ATO chief over unliquidated advances

By Christine O. Avendaño

FOR FAILING TO LIQUIDATE P1.2 MILLION in cash advances within the prescribed period, an assistant secretary at the Air Transportation Office was suspended for three months without pay by Malacañang.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission actually recommended the dismissal of Assistant Secretary Nilo Jatico but Malacañang downgraded it to a suspension because it said Jatico did liquidate his advances, if belatedly.

The three-month suspension order issued Oct. 16 by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita also came with a "stern warning that repetition of the same offense would merit a more severe penalty."

But PAGC Chair Constancia de Guzman said the agency was still validating Jatico's claim that he liquidated his cash advances, covering the years 2003 and 2004, in 2005.

"He is not yet off the hook," De Guzman told reporters, saying that she had subpoenaed the Commission on Audit reports from 2005 until June 30, 2006.

Jatico was charged administratively for his unliquidated cash advances amounting to P1,156,949.68 after a number of ATO employees lodged a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman in May 2004.

In July 2004, a certain Ralph Guerra of ATO sent a letter to the Office of the President saying Jatico's unliquidated cash advances reached P2.3 million, as these included expenses for meetings and conferences.

Guerra dropped his complaint in January 2005 but the PAGC continued with its investigation.

De Guzman said the PAGC determined that Jatico was "liable for violation of Sec. 3 of Republic Act No. 3019 when he failed to liquidate his cash advances within the period prescribed by applicable laws, rules and regulations and thus causing injury to the government."

As a department assistant secretary, Jatico is only allowed to draw cash advances up to P85,000 a year, according to the General Appropriations Act.

9 policemen in drug bust scam charged

By Alcuin Papa

CRIMINAL CHARGES OF KIDNAPPING, USURPAtion of authority and possession of illegal drugs were filed against nine policemen arrested the other night in Quezon City for allegedly extorting money from six drug suspects.

According to Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) director Rodolfo Caisip, the charges were filed yesterday against Senior Insp. Bienvenido Reydado, Senior Insp. Gilbert Farinas, PO2 Alexander Alvarez and PO2 Junjun Mataverde, all members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Anti Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF).

Also charged were former PDEA members Insp. Nathaniel Capitanea, Insp. Marco Polo Estrera, PO3 Dan Firmalino, PO2 Jose Garcia and PO1 Nelson Mariano. Capitania and the PDEA members were earlier dismissed for being allegedly involved in kidnapping.

Caisip said the Police Anti Crime Emergency Response (PACER) team would be filing the kidnapping charges against the ex-cops.

All the policemen are now detained by the PDEA. No bail was recommended for the policemen by Quezon City Prosecutor Ferdinand Baylon.

The nine police officers were arrested by the PDEA the other night at a fastfood branch on Banawe St., Quezon City

The PDEA also filed charges of illegal possession of shabu, or violation of Republic Act 9165 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act, against the six civilian drug suspects they arrested in San Fernando, Pampanga the other day.

The six were identified as Edgar Parce, Trivor Woodard, Roberto Antonio, Mario David, Joel David and Danilo Gabriel.

"We have a strong case against all of them," Caisip told the INQUIRER.

Caisip said their real target was Capitania, who is wanted for kidnapping. But they were surprised to find the other officers also in the fastfood outlet. "They were there for almost two hours," he said.

When PDEA men swooped in, they arrested the policemen and found the six suspects hogtied and blindfolded inside the police van.

PDEA Chief Dionisio Santiago charged that the nine officers were trying to extort P100,000 each from relatives of the victims, who were "arrested" in a buy-bust operation.

The policemen did not turn over their suspects to their superiors. "That's kidnapping. There was no coordination with us. Do their superiors know about their operation," said Caisip.

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Yap return, Panganiban exit draw flak from Senate

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S SURPRISING replacement of Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban with her trusted aide-lawyer Arthur Yap, is a setback to farmers, the chair of the Senate agriculture committee said yesterday.

"How can you replace somebody who is competent and respected, and put in a lawyer who should be practicing law and defending clients? There's just no comparison," Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said in a telephone interview.

His comment was the latest in a flurry of criticisms that greeted Malacañang's announcement Wednesday night that Yap would replace the yet to be confirmed Panganiban, who will be lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

Magsaysay said the outgoing DA secretary was an agriculturist, and his departure was a big loss to the millions of farmers around the country.

"It's probably a big setback. Ding (Panganiban) knows the farmers and they understand each other. And he knows what to do to improve their productivity."

Panganiban had been a career agriculture official since the Marcos era.

Magsaysay, who led the Senate inquiry into the alleged misuse of P728-million fertilizer fund scam, admitted that he was just as stumped that the President named Yap to take over Panganiban's post.

"She must have overwhelming reasons to put back Arthur Yap [in the department]," he said. One of these reasons, he theorized, could be that Yap enjoyed the President's confidence.

Yap had held the agriculture portfolio from July 9, 2004, to June 30, 2005, when he quit to personally handle a tax evasion case filed against his family that was subsequently dismissed for insufficient evidence.

Malacañang, however, brushed off criticisms on the President's decision to bring back Yap to the DA and described as "unfair" allegations linking his transfer to the upcoming elections.

"Secretary Yap is a capable and competent official who has already proven himself in the agriculture portfolio," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. "Let us give him a break to do his job to increase farm productivity and create more jobs in that sector."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita noted that Yap's declaration that he would cut subsidies on fertilizers and farm inputs should be enough to assuage his critics.

House leaders also defended the reappointment of Yap as agriculture secretary, predicting he would be easily confirmed by the Commission on Appointments (CA).

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said that despite the allegations against him, Yap was one of Ms Arroyo's best picks because he had turned out to be among the most hardworking members of the Cabinet and had shown "unequivocal loyalty to her administration."

Nograles also dismissed opposition calls for Congress to investigate Yap. On Thursday, Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said Yap's confirmation by the CA should be deferred pending investigation of a purported P432-million fertilizer scam when Yap was still administrator of the National Food Authority. *With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr. and Philip C. Tubeza*

SSS to increase pensions by 10%

By Christine O. Avendaño

STARTING SEPT. 1, THE SOCIAL SECURITY System will implement a 10-percent across the board increase in monthly pension benefits to members.

This is the first benefit increase approved by the Arroyo administration since the SSS pension fund dropped to dangerously low levels more than five years ago.

At the prodding of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Social Security Commission (SSC) chair Thelmo Cunanan announced this piece of good news during the 32nd Philippine Business Conference (PBC) at the Manila Hotel yesterday.

"We are sharing this because we feel that we have improved the handling of the pension fund; the investments of the pension fund is much better and we want to share this with our pensioner members," Cunanan told reporters.

As of July, Cunanan said that earnings of the pension fund reached P1.6 billion. He assured that the commission would not recommend the increase in pension benefits "if these were not actuarially sound and can be supported by the system."

On the average, about half a million member-pensioners get an average monthly benefit of P7,000.

The Sept.1 starting date means that SSS members can claim two months' worth of increased benefits when they get their share this month, according to the SSC chair.

Cunanan said that the state of the SSS funds have improved drastically since President Arrroyo came to office in 2001. At that time, he said it was estimated that the funds would be depleted in five years.

Cunanan said the actuarial life of the funds is now 26-27 years.

"W'ere hoping that with the support of the President and with good fund management we would be able to increase the actuarial life of the fund to maybe 60 years... which is almost in perpetuity," he told reporters.

Crackdown on 'colorum' schools urged

By Alcuin Papa

THE HEAD OF THE FEDERATION OF Associations of Private School Administrators (FAPSA) called on the government to crack down on private schools operating without a permit from the education department, saying this was the cause of the deteriorating state of education in the country.

"If our government wants to save our deteriorating quality of education, it should stop the proliferation of illegal schools," said Eleazardo Kasilag, the FAPSA-Metro Manila.

He said many of these schools were pre-schools which may be giving substandard instruction as they are not being checked by the DepEd.

"Some of their graduates or transferees are not accepted into the next grade levels because their curriculums are not valid. Parents spend so much to send their children to these fly-by-night schools. It's wasted money and wasted time," Kasilag said.

He said most of these illegal schools operate out of backyards or garages of private residences.

Citing studies that the critical years in a child's life are from birth to six years, the government has encouraged the establishment of pre-schools, both public and private.

In 1990, a law was passed mandating the establishment of a day-care center in every barangay.

In her state of the nation address in 2004, President Macapagal-Arroyo asked Congress to pass a law that would standardize the curriculum of barangay day-care centers. She said the government would require children to attend kindergarten, noting that "those who don't go to day care are the ones who drop out of school."

Kasilag has proposed that the government form a tripartite body composed of the DepEd, the Department of Interior and Local Government and FAPSA to go after illegal schools.

He said he was informed that it was the local government which have the jurisdiction and the power to close down illegal schools.

He said the FAPSA had conducted a dialog with Education Secretary Jesli Lapus who said a campaign against illegal schools was still under study.

Education officials earlier said there were plans to crack down on schools operating without a permit from the DepEd. But the campaign has yet to be launched.

The minimum requirements for pre-schools are very specific, according to Kasilag. The land on which a pre-school is sited must measure 350 square meters. A pre-school with an attached elementary school must have a land area of between 500 sq m and 750 sq m.

He said pre-school teachers are required to have licenses and that facilities must be complete, with a library and canteen.

Kasilag, who owns the St. Nicholas School in Marikina that offers education from pre-school to high school, deplored that it is the legal schools that are being blamed for the deteriorating quality of education in the country.

As of 2004, there were a total of 44,118 day-care centers and accredited day-care centers managed by local government units. The figure does not include private pre-schools and DepEd-run pre-school centers.

But of the country's 39,073 barangays in the country, 6,726 were not served by a day-care center.

In 2000, the latest figures available, there were 700 private pre-schools in Metro Manila alone.

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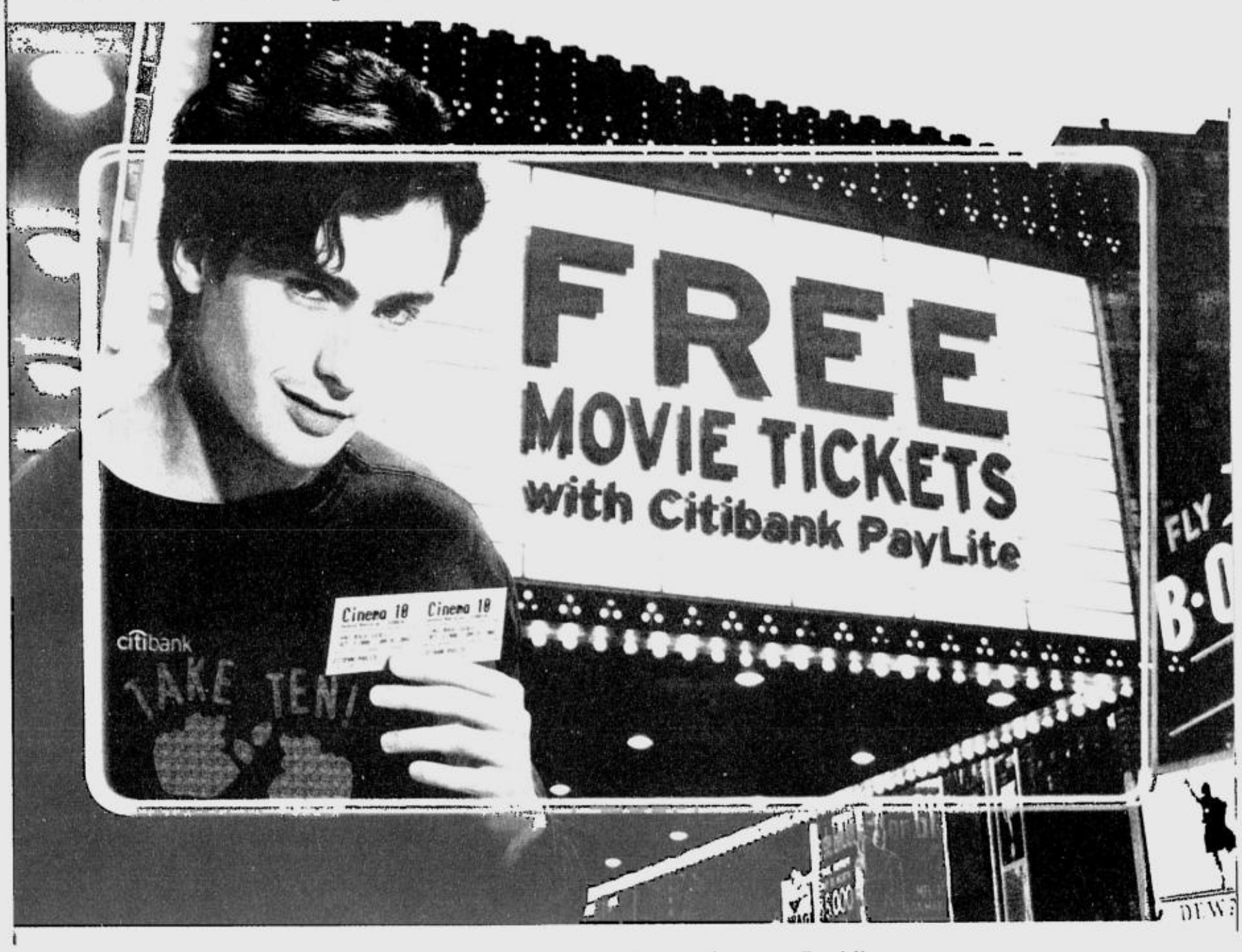

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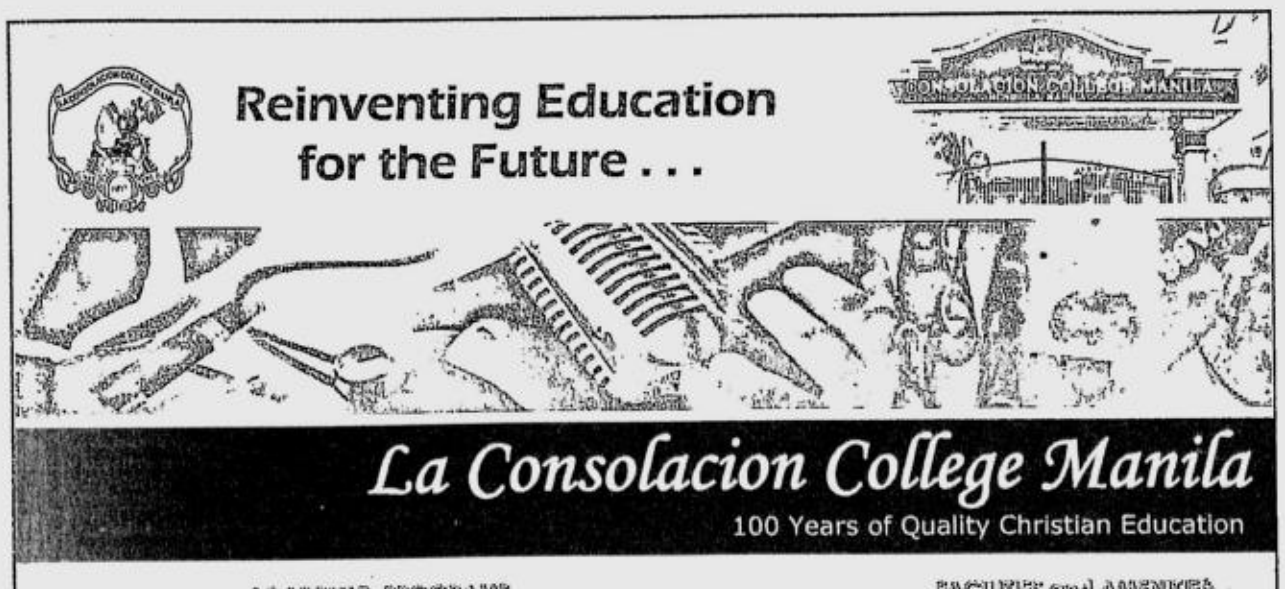

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Cable TV gives 5-day rebate for 'Milenyo' downtime

SKYCABLE INC. ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY it would make up for five days of typhoon-disrupted cable services to Metro Manila subscribers by giving them rebates.

The five-day rebate will be reflected as a deduction in the subscriber's next bill.

Advance payers, such as those paying on quarterly, semi-annual, or annual bases, will have the rebate reflected in their next bill. The rebate will apply to all residential, commercial and corporate SKYCable and ZPDee subscribers in good standing.

SKYCable head of operations Rafael Aguado said in a statement that the company took approximately five days from Sept. 28, the day Milenyo struck Metro Manila, to restore 95 percent of its services.

"We are reconciling the millions of pesos in damage that we have incurred. Nevertheless, we understand the frustration and inconvenience it caused our customers," Aguado said. "We are giving the rebate across-the-board because everybody suffered somehow. We hope this will alleviate the inconvenience our subscribers suffered."

Inquiries may be directed to SKYCable by calling 631 0000 or texting 0918 927 0153 or 0920 913 7089.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 21, 2006
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Eph 1:15-23
Gospel: Luke 12:8-12

Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before people, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But the one who denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.

There will be pardon for the one who criticizes the Son of Man, but there will be no pardon for the one who slanders the Holy Spirit.

When you are brought before the synagogues, governors and rulers, don't worry about how you will defend yourself or what to say. For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you have to say."

Commentary

Paul constantly remembers to pray for the Ephesians and to be thankful for their faithfulness. He prays wisdom upon them, constant growth in understanding and the fullness of revelation. They must know Christ who is above every authority, power and sovereignty upon earth and they are to submit to Jesus, the Body of Christ and the Spirit that fills all of creation. Jesus too exhorts his followers to be faithful to the Son of Man, the Crucified, suffering and risen one of God. He warns us that we might share in his own persecution and sufferings, but that the Spirit will teach us everything we need for that moment. What do we pray for, for one another and the Church?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a photo caption in a Sports article on Page A28—"Asiad heroine Mikee lights up torch relay—misspelled the last name of one of the Filipino climbers who conquered Mt. Everest. His name is Romy Garduce—not Romy Garuce.

In the same issue, Maurice Arcache's column in the Lifestyle section on Page F3—"20 years of fine Filipiniana designs"—misspelled the last name of the SM President. Her name is Tessie Sy-Coson—not Tessie Sy-Ceson

In the October 19 issue, photo caption on page A27 misspelled the last name of the president of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines. His name is Ernie Fajardo—not Ernie Fajarda.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 10
SERIES OF 2006

SUBJECT: **Reiterating the Rules on Price Tags/Labels and Providing Prohibition Against the Imposition of a Surcharge, Extra Charge or Additional Charge in the Use of Credit/Automated Teller Machine (ATM)/Debit Cards for Payment of Purchases of Consumer Products or Services**

WHEREAS, Republic Act No.7394, otherwise known as the Consumer Act of the Philippines, declares that it is the policy of the State to protect the interests of the consumer, promote his general welfare and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry;

WHEREAS, Article 3 of Republic Act No. 7394 declares that the best interest of the consumer shall be considered in the interpretation and implementation of the provisions of this Act, including its implementing rules and regulations;

WHEREAS, the progress in technology of the globalized economy comes along with the convenience of business activities and consumer transactions through the use of credit cards as a mode for payment of goods and services;

WHEREAS, the credit/ATM/debit card holders must be protected from sellers/retailers who impose surcharges or additional amount over and above the price tag on the goods and services in the use of credit cards in payment thereof;

WHEREAS, there is a need to amplify and supplement the current DTI Department Administrative Order No. 09, dated 10 September 2002, providing rules on price tags and labels;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the provisions of the Consumer Act, the following Order is hereby prescribed for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned:

Section 1. *Scope and Coverage.* This Order shall apply to all retailers and retail sales to consumers.

Section 2. *One Price Tag Requirement.* Every retailer is required to display a price tag to indicate the price of each consumer good and/or services, as required in Articles 81 to 83 of the Consumer Act of the Philippines or R.A. No. 7394.

The price tag must be written clearly, indicating the price of the consumer product including Value Added Tax (VAT) whenever the consumer product is VATABLE. Service charge, if any, shall not be included in the price tag.
Example:

1. Correct – When the price tag is inclusive of VAT as shown in Official Receipt issued.

PRODUCT	1	1	P26.00
PRODUCT	2	1	36.00
PRODUCT	3	1	112.00
TOTAL SALES			P174.00
TAX INCLUDED		18.65	

The consumer pays P174.00 only.

2. Wrong – When the price tag is exclusive of VAT as shown in the Official Receipt issued.

PRODUCT	1	1	P26.00
PRODUCT	2	1	36.00
PRODUCT	3	1	112.00
SUB TOTAL			P174.00
VAT			18.65
TOTAL SALES		192.65	

The consumer pays P192.65.

Section 3. *Modes of Payment and other Price Tag Practices.* It is necessary to consider business practices relative to the mode of payment to determine compliance with Price Tag Law. These practices include the following:

1. When the consumer pays in cash, he shall pay only the price indicated in the price tag.
2. When the consumer pays through a credit/ATM/debit card, he shall pay only the price indicated in the price tag.
3. When the retailer offers the consumer an option to pay in cash, card or on installment, the same is allowed provided the payment options shall be disclosed by way of a separate information to the consumer but not in the price tag.
4. Price tag indicating a separate CASH PRICE TAG and REGULAR PRICE TAG on each product or service is not allowed.
5. Price tag indicating a separate CASH PRICE TAG and CARD PRICE TAG on each product or service is not allowed.

Section 4. *Price Reduction Sales Promotion.* In case of sales promotions involving price reduction, seasonal sales, reduced revenue sale, discount sales, and other general or selected prize reductions, it shall comply with the provisions of Rule XIII, Sections 1, 1.1 to 1.6 of Department Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 1993 implementing the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

Section 5. *Prohibition Against Surcharging by Retailers.* All retailers who honor/accept credit/ATM/debit cards for payment shall not require the cardholders to pay a surcharge, extra charge, or additional charge over and above the price tag on the consumer goods and services.

Section 6. *Consumer Complaints.* The provisions of the Consumer Act under Article 159 to 166 as well as DTI Department Administrative Order No. 07, Series of 2006 shall govern consumer complaints on violations of Articles 81 to 83 of the Consumer Act and this Order.

Section 7. *Penalties.* Violations of the provisions of Article 81 to 83 of the Consumer Act and this Order shall be penalized under Article 95(b) and Article 164 of the same Act quoted as follows:

1.) Article 95 (b) of the Consumer Act: any person who violates the provisions of Article 81 to 83 for the first time shall be subject to a fine of not less than Two hundred pesos (P200.00) but no more than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) or by imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months or both, at the discretion of the court. A second conviction thereunder shall carry with it the penalty of revocation of business permit and license.

2.) Article 164 of the Consumer Act wherein after formal investigation, any of the following administrative penalties may be imposed on the respondent even if not prayed for in the complaint:

a. the issuance of a cease and desist order, *Provided*, however, That such order shall specify the acts that respondent shall cease and desist from and shall require him to submit a report of compliance therewith within a reasonable time;
b. the acceptance of a voluntary assurance of compliance or discontinuance from the respondent which may include any or all of the following terms and conditions:
1.) an assurance to comply with the provisions of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations; and
2.) an assurance to refrain from engaging in unlawful acts and practices or unfair or unethical trade practices subject of the formal investigation;
3.) an assurance to comply with the terms and conditions specified in the consumer transaction subject of the complaint;
4.) an assurance to recall, replace, repair, or refund the money value of defective products distributed in commerce;
5.) an assurance to reimburse the complaint out of any money or property in connection with the complaint, including expenses in making or pursuing the complaint, if any, and to file a bond to guarantee compliance therewith;
a. restitution or rescission of the contract without damages;
b. condemnation and seizure of the consumer product found to be hazardous to health and safety unless the respondent files a bond to answer for any damage or injury that may arise from the continued use of product;
c the imposition of administrative fines in such amount as deemed reasonable by the Secretary, which shall in no case be less than Five hundred pesos (P500.00) nor more than Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) depending on the gravity of the offense, and an additional fine of not more than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) or each day of continuing violation.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* All orders and issuances which are inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 9. *Publication and Effectivity.* This Order shall be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation and shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication.

Issued this 18th day of October 2006 in Makati City, Philippines

(Sgd.)
PETER B. FAVILA
Secretary

Recommended by:

(Sgd.)
ZENAIDA CUISON MAGLAYA
Undersecretary
Consumer Welfare and Trade Regulation Group

(Sgd.)
VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Director
Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection

People's initiative: Last hope to Cha-cha

From page A1

will render a decision soonest because we are running out of time," the governor added.

He also denied that Ulap—which is composed of governors, mayors and other local officials—had been pressuring the high court to decide in favor of a people's initiative.

6.3M signatures

Ulap and the citizens' group Sigaw ng Bayan had asked the Supreme Court to reverse the Commission on Elections' decision in August dismissing their petition to amend the Constitution through the direct initiative of the people.

The two groups had claimed to have gathered 6.3 million signatures from citizens seeking a shift from the bicameral-presidential to the unicameral-parliamentary system of government, in compliance with the requirement that the petition should have the signature of at least 12 percent of all registered voters and representing at least 3 percent of voters in each congressional district.

They had also asked the Comelec to immediately schedule a plebiscite so that the changes could be submitted to the people for approval.

'Some pressure'

But the Comelec had junked the petition, citing the high court's 1997 ruling in Santiago versus Comelec that Congress had yet to pass an enabling law for a people's initiative.

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban said early this week that the high court was under "some pressure" from interested parties now that it was preparing to issue a decision on the petition for a people's initiative.

Panganiban said, however, that the high court was used to pressure and would not let this affect its independence.

He said the high court would hold an en banc session on the petition next week.

Malacañang, which supports either a people's initiative or a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution, had denied pressuring the high court.

Nevertheless, the President said in a speech on Thursday night before the Global Forum that she was determined to have the Constitution amended in order to "build a modern Philippines."

The Global Forum is composed of Panganiban and his foreign counterparts in 33 countries, as well as jurists, law experts and members of the law academe.

Inhibition

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said the justices aspiring to replace Panganiban on his retirement at the age of 70 on Dec. 7 should inhibit themselves from deliberations on the people's initiative petition.

He said inhibition was the correct action for these justices to take "in the light of the so-called pressure brought to bear on the Supreme Court justices, the President's announcement before the [Global Forum] that she wants Charter change to succeed, and [the fact] that a new chief justice is to be appointed by her on Dec. 7."

Pangilinan is the Senate's representative in the Judicial and Bar Council, which screens nominees for the judiciary. The council submits its final choice to the President, who makes the appointment.

"By recusing themselves, the [justices] would be spared the awkward situation wherein the appointment of the new chief justice would be perceived as a reward for taking a stand in favor of Malacañang, whether or not the petition is granted," he said, adding:

"If any of the aspiring justices who may have voted in favor of Malacañang's position is appointed chief justice on Dec. 7, it may have an adverse effect on the credibility of the Supreme Court.

"Inhibition is an available option that should be seriously considered by those who are interested in the post of chief justice."

5 senior justices

Ten of the 15 justices are appointees of Ms Arroyo.

Pangilinan's appeal is apparently directed at the five most senior justices who are automatically considered candidates by virtue of their seniority.

In its formal announcement on the opening of the nomination period for the post of chief justice, which appeared in the INQUIRER on Oct. 18, the JBC said Reynato Puno, Leonardo Quisumbing, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez and Antonio Carpio—all senior associate justices—were automatically considered for nomination.

The JBC set the deadline for nominations on Oct. 30.

Beating the deadline

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita acknowledged that time was running out on the campaign for Charter change.

He reminded reporters that Jan. 15 was the last day for those running in the May elections to file certificates of candidacy.

"We must beat the deadline [to make Charter change happen] before Jan. 15," he said.

Meralco ordered: Don't raise power ...

From page A1

(Napocor). PSALM and Napocor are both state-run concerns.

"Our main concern is if the price spike in the subject transactions is passed on to consumers, there will be an uptick. But before we do that, we have to establish if there was any manipulation or none at all. We have to establish that and in the meantime we have to put that (price spike) on hold," said Favila.

Customers of Meralco, the country' biggest electricity distributor, may have to pay higher rates because of the price spikes as Meralco buys most of its power supply from the WESM.

According to Lotilla, 48 percent of consumer electricity rates are based on prevailing WESM rates.

Mere suspicion

But Lotilla said Meralco and other power distributors have yet to tack on the high prices from the WESM to the monthly electricity bills of their customers.

Favila said there was no need to stop WESM's operations while the investigation was going on.

He also criticized the PEMC for disclosing its investigation into the alleged price manipulation on mere suspicion alone.

Favila said the agency should have conducted its probe discreetly and completed it before making a public announcement.

"WESM has a good purpose. Unfortunately, somebody issued a statement. But they shouldn't do that until they have pinned them down," Favila said.

"What if there was no price manipulation? Then we have to explain to the public to change their mind-set," he said.

No logic

Favila said the team would comb through all the transactions in WESM's first three months of operations to determine whether there was justification for the surge in spot prices.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, an economic adviser of the President, said the WESM's biggest players would be hard-pressed to come up with a logical explanation for the price jump as both demand and supply were stable during the period.

Salceda said Meralco, PSALM and Napocor were solely responsible for the unusual rise in spot electricity prices.

Biazon amused ...

From page A1

lo Garci" scandal?

An amused Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, head of the Senate defense committee, raised these questions yesterday on hearing the news that Malacañang plans to appoint retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Generoso Senga as new chair of a government TV station.

"There must be something special about his work experience and academic preparation to fit in for the job," Biazon, a former military chief himself, said of Senga.

"But having gone through the same work and academic experience as the former AFP chief, I can't see how the appointment can be justified," Biazon said, chuckling.

Biazon, who served as AFP chief during the turbulent term of President Corazon Aquino, said he could not imagine how a former general could efficiently run a TV station, like the state-controlled National Broadcasting Network 4 (NBN-4), notwithstanding his experience in the battlefield.

"I could imagine him taking on an ambassadorial or a national security post. I'm not questioning the capability of General Senga. I'm now a senator, but this is different from running a TV station," Biazon said in a phone interview from Geneva, where he's attending an international conference.

Rewarding the loyal

"Are we saying now that we lack qualified people to run the media entity? There are a lot of qualified people, including Toby Nebrida, who can take the job," he said, referring to the NBN-4's chief of reporters, who is covering the Senate.

Biazon said that appointing Senga to a media post could be part of the administration's unofficial policy to reward retired military and police officials with juicy posts to keep them from squealing on the Garci scandal.

"This can be interpreted as a means to keep potential sources of trouble for the President in check. This is all part of the deployment of the remunerative power of the President," he said.

Biazon said Senga could have much information about the scandal. He was referring to the supposed wiretapped conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano dealing with alleged rigging of the May 2004 presidential election.

To this day, Ms Arroyo has not fully explained her side of the issue.

Opposition attempts to resolve unanswered questions about the so-called "Garci tape" and to impeach Ms Arroyo have been thwarted by her allies in the House of Representatives.

Not yet closed

"Remember, Senga has yet to provide clarification on serious political issues, such as the Garci tape scandal. The Garci issue is not yet closed," Biazon said.

A top Malacañang official has disclosed that Senga's prospective appointment as NBN-4 chair is part of a major overhaul being planned by President Macapagal-Arroyo in the Presidential Communication Group.

If Senga's appointment is confirmed, the number of retired military and police officials appointed to key government posts during the Arroyo administration could exceed that during the Ramos presidency, according to Biazon.

Arroyo's survival

"In the calculation of President Arroyo, the military is a major factor in her political survival," he said.

Former military and police officials occupying key posts in the Cabinet are Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Transportation Undersecretary Roberto Lastimoso and Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., among others.

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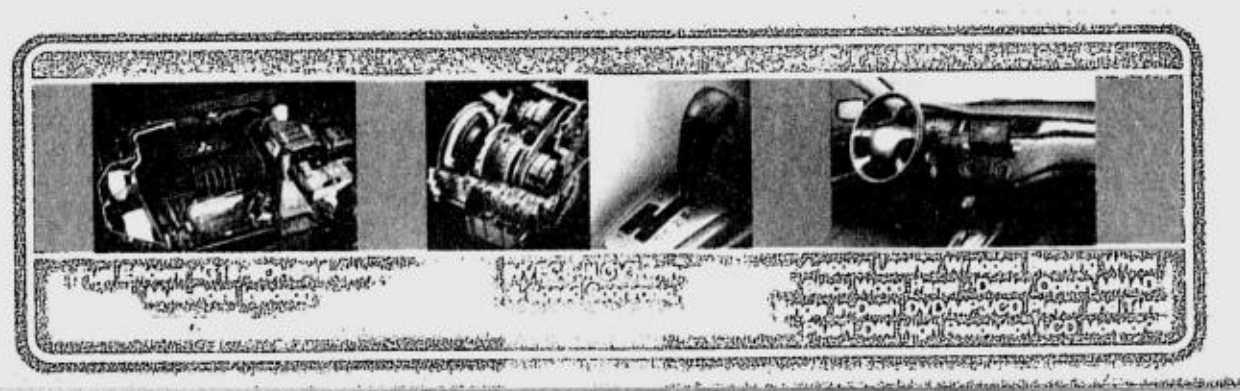

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OUR MISSION

Enable healthcare professionals to deliver excellent and humane diabetes care

OUR VISION

Everyone receives excellent and humane diabetes care.

OUR VALUES

Family
We are one in our aspiration to make a dent on diabetes.
Our members and healthcare partners are family whom we value and respect. We care deeply for their wellbeing and growth. We deal in candor and openness. Our patients and their loved ones are family as well. They are our work's meaning.

Service
Service to Life is our ministry and driving force
for furthering the knowledge and skills that help make life much better for diabetes sufferers and protect high-risk individuals from the disease. We are committed to render service anytime, anywhere, and in any condition, so that no one shall be deprived of excellent and humane diabetes care.

Integrity
Ministering to life is an honorable mission
for which our probity, zeal, and fairness, besides our expertise, keep us trustworthy. We practice Medicine in faithful adherence to the Hippocratic Oath, the physicians' highest and noblest standard of ethics for centuries.

Excellence
Life being our work's meaning, we strive to give our best at our best.
We search continuously, trying to quench our insatiable thirst for knowledge. Our excellent and generous mentors, whom we owe much gratitude, challenge us ceaselessly with "What else?" and inspire us to renew constantly.

Love of Work
We love seeing happiness in the eyes of the diabetic patients whom we treat.
We find fulfillment in enabling people to help us seek solutions to diabetes. We love working together in an atmosphere of trust, loyal friendship and fun. In all humility, we celebrate with quiet and dedicated work, our privileged role of enhancing, extending and saving God's greatest gift, human life.

Message

For 17 years of its existence, the UERMMMC-Institute for the Studies of Diabetes Foundation Inc. has not been just a quiet school. It has effectively spread deep and widespread concern and commitment to the diabetes problem in the country among doctors, nurses, dietitians, clinical psychologists, social workers and health workers all over the Philippines.

One of our widely recognized achievements that has attracted nationwide attention and support is the establishment of functional diabetes clinics in various parts of the country, many in government hospitals, which converge yearly in diabetes consortia held initially in Luzon, later on in the Visayas and Mindanao.

As we inaugurate our new building in Marikina City, I take the opportunity to thank the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center for being our home for the past 17 years. I would also like to thank the people who have been faithful to the institute in all its difficult endeavors. Maraming, maraming salamat po!

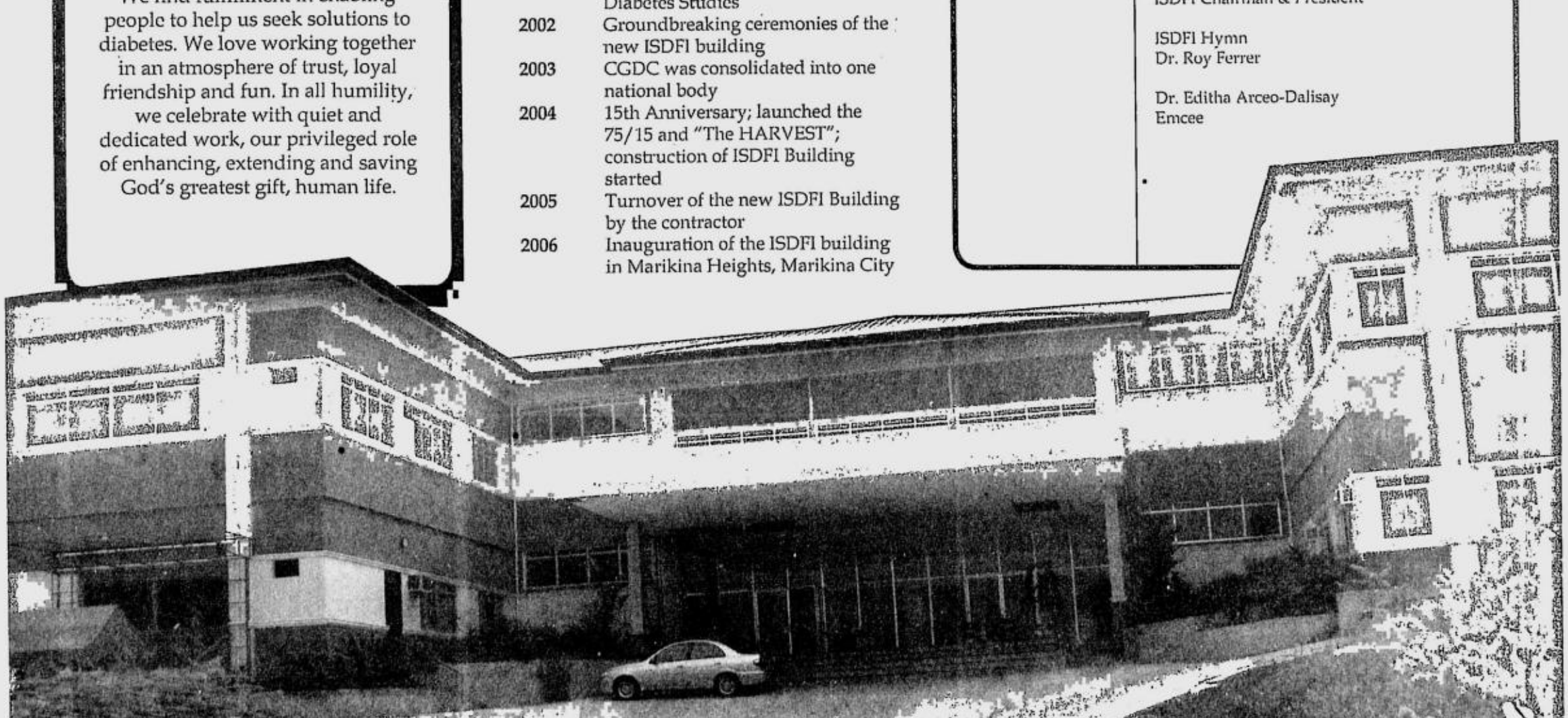
Ricardo Fernando, MD
Founder and President
ISDFI

17 fruitful years of ISDFI

1989	ISDFI opened; accepted the first batch of students for Masteral Degree in Internal Medicine Major in Diabetology
1991	CGDC and ADNEP were established
1992	PADE was organized; radio program "Diabetes on the Air" aired every Friday and Saturday at 1082 DZEC Eagle Broadcasting
1993	First ISDFI workshop for family physicians and allied health professionals; PSD was launched; publication of the first-ever Diabetic Menu Guide
1994	Won bronze medal from Health and Management Information System (HAMIS); the First Philippine Diabetes Congress held on November 20; joined the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to a senate hearing on the proposed bill to create the National Diabetes Commission
1995	Dr. Ricardo Fernando and Dr. Araceli Panelo were named members of the DOH DM Advisory Council and Task Force on Diabetes; tasked to conduct the Second National Diabetes Survey for DOH
1996	Sponsored the launching of the Diabetes Friendly Establishments; featured on Channel 9—"Helpline sa 9"
1997	Drs. Fernando and Panelo were appointed to the National Diabetes Commission
1998	First Commencement Exercises on October 3; the Foot Care and Wound Management Clinic opened
1999	10th Anniversary; First REF Professorial Lecture
2000	ISDFI Alumni Association was launched
2001	Offered the Diploma Course in Diabetes Studies
2002	Groundbreaking ceremonies of the new ISDFI building
2003	CGDC was consolidated into one national body
2004	15th Anniversary; launched the 75/15 and "The HARVEST"; construction of ISDFI Building started
2005	Turnover of the new ISDFI Building by the contractor
2006	Inauguration of the ISDFI building in Marikina Heights, Marikina City

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

8:00am - 9:30am	Motorcade of Participants (ISDFI Alumni) From EDSA Shangri-La
9:30am - 10:00am	Snacks
10:00am	Ribbon Cutting Unveiling of ISDFI marker with **DSWD Hon. Sec. Dr. Esperanza Cabral,** **Marikina Hon. Mayor Ma. Lourdes C. Fernando** Dr. Ricardo E. Fernando, Dr. Araceli A. Panelo, and Dr. Leorino M. Sobrepeña
10:15am - 11:00am	Ecumenical Mass
11:00am - 11:45am	Blessing of Rooms
11:45am	Invocation Dr. Ronaldo Toledo National Anthem Dr. Gerald Bernal Welcome Remarks Dr. Araceli A. Panelo ISDFI Executive Director Introduction of the Guest of Honor Dr. Rodolfo C. Rabanal ISDFI Corporate Secretary Inspirational Message DSWD Hon. Sec. Dr. Esperanza Cabral Recognition of Graduates Dr. Editha Arceo-Dalisay Chair, Academic Affairs, UERMMMC-ISDFI Center for Diabetes Care AVP Presentation Dr. Leorino M. Sobrepeña ISDFI Vice-President Closing Remarks Dr. Ricardo E. Fernando ISDFI Chairman & President ISDFI Hymn Dr. Roy Ferrer Dr. Editha Arceo-Dalisay Emcee



Japan envoy apologizes for war-time aggression

By Vicente S. Labro and Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

PALO, LEYTE—THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR yesterday expressed regret over the barbaric acts committed by the Japanese Imperial Army in the Philippines during World War II.

"I would like to reiterate my heartfelt apology and deep sense of remorse and reflection over the tragic fate of all those who fought to defend this country against Japanese military aggression and the atrocities committed by [its army]," Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki said in a message he delivered during the commemorative program of the Leyte Gulf Landings' 62nd anniversary in Palo, Leyte.

"Today on the occasion of this solemn ceremony, I reflect upon the lessons to be learned from that terrible war. I again have been moved by the noble spirit of reconciliation and sense of fairness on the part of the Filipino people," he said.

Yamazaki said the atrocities of 62 years ago were acts that Japan would never do again because it was now among the world's most peace-loving nations sharing the "basic values of democracy, freedom and respect for human rights."

During the same program, Capt. Mike Brooks, naval attaché and representative of the US Embassy, lauded the "gallantry" and "valor" displayed by Filipino soldiers during the war.

Brooks said similar heroic acts were needed at this time when terrorism threatened the world.

Economic benefits

Yamazaki also cited the benefits resulting from trade relations between the Philippines and Japan.

He said the bilateral agreement signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi had further boosted the relationship of the two countries.

"This economic agreement will certainly make the bilateral-economic relations more comprehensive, more interactive and more mutually beneficial," the ambassador said.

In the Eastern Visayas, Japan is the biggest donor and source of funds for big development projects like the rehabilitation of the Maharlika Highway.

Yamazaki also announced the participation of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), which will be held in Cebu City in December.

Asean summit

The ambassador was among the dignitaries who attended the commemorative program.

The others present were Col. Chris Burns, defense attaché of the Australian Embassy; Nick Oosterveen, minister-councilor of the Canadian Embassy; Group Capt. Mary Elizabeth Cox, defense attaché of the New Zealand Embassy; and Rodrigo Gutan, national vice president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

The local government officials present included Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla, Vice Gov. Mimiette Bagulaya, Leyte Rep. Remedios Petilla, Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visayas Victor Domingo and Palo Mayor Teodoro Sevilla.

Fading fast, veterans press gov't on ₱42-B arrears in old age pension

From page A1

a kilometer away from the MacArthur Shrine, that the subject was touched on by some of the speakers.

Still, retired Lt. Col. Dionesio Torrevillas, regional vice president of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines in Leyte and Samar, urged his fellow veterans not to lose heart.

"Let us have patience. This is a waiting game. The time will come when what is due us will be given to us," he said in closing remarks during the Sunrise Ceremony.

Torrevillas noted that the arrears in the WWII veterans' old age pension had reached P42 billion. "If it will not be given to us in our lifetime, maybe it will be given to our children," he said.

More than 100 local war veterans showed up for the ceremonies commemorating the day US Gen. Douglas MacArthur, together with, among others, President Sergio Osmeña and Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, again set foot on Philippine soil after leaving the country at the onset of the Japanese invasion.

Pension arrears

Benjamin Sabillo Sr., commander of the Carigara (Leyte) Veterans Post, disclosed that the overdue veterans' benefits included the pension of the surviving spouse and the death pension, which were approved in 2000-2002 and in 2003, respectively.

According to Sabillo, Republic Act No. 7696 states that all veterans, with or without disability, are deemed totally disabled upon reaching the age of 70 and are entitled to a monthly pension of P1,700 plus P500 for the spouse.

"This has not been implemented. Veterans born before April 1924 [are entitled to] as much as P316,800 each in disability pension arrears, and those born after 1924 but before 1937, to correspondingly lesser amounts," he said.

A veteran, who refused to give his name, lamented that the government had recently allocated billions of pesos for infrastructure projects but continued to ignore their plea for the payment of the arrears.

Dwindling number

Most of the veterans are now in their eighties. Many have died without being able to avail themselves of the arrears in their pension benefits.

In Carigara, for instance, only eight are left of the original 281 WWII veterans.

Ice Age dwarf carabao bones from RP found

From page A1

him take the bones home and bring them to researchers at the city's lakefront museum.

Significant find

When Intengan, a Filipino native, brought the bones to the Field, however, he was kept waiting by museum staff. So he left the box, along with a brief description of where the bones were found and his business card, with a security guard, who ultimately got it to Heaney.

Heaney said he knew he'd been handed a significant find "within 15 minutes." The bones were, for starters, those of a mammal, and no mammal bones had ever been found in Cebu.

Further investigation made it clear the bones were those of an adult water buffalo, but much smaller than any seen before.

Wear patterns on the teeth, and the fusion of the growth plates in the humerus, made Heaney confident it was a dwarf—not a baby.

Still, it took Heaney and his colleagues years to track down Armas, double-check that the remains were in fact unique and try—unsuccessfully—to carbon date the fossils.

"This is a museum," Heaney said of the 11-year process. "Very little happens quickly."

Heaney believes the dwarf water buffalo is descended from an ancestor of the much larger Asian water buffalo still common today. He says it probably lived sometime during the last ice age, when sea levels were 400 feet (122 meters) lower and many of the islands that make up the Philippines were closer together or attached.

Smaller than Tamaraw

The dwarf water buffalo is 20-25 percent smaller than the Tamaraw *(Bubalus mindorensis)*, the endangered dwarf water buffalo that lives on Mindoro. Only a few hundred remain today.

Heaney speculates that *Bubalus cebuensis* thrived during the ice age because most of that portion of the Philippines was covered by tropical savanna, a collection of grassland and scattered trees that formed an ideal habitat.

One possible explanation for their disappearance, Heaney says, is that when the ice age ended, that savanna disappeared as the Philippines got warmer and wetter. *Reuters*

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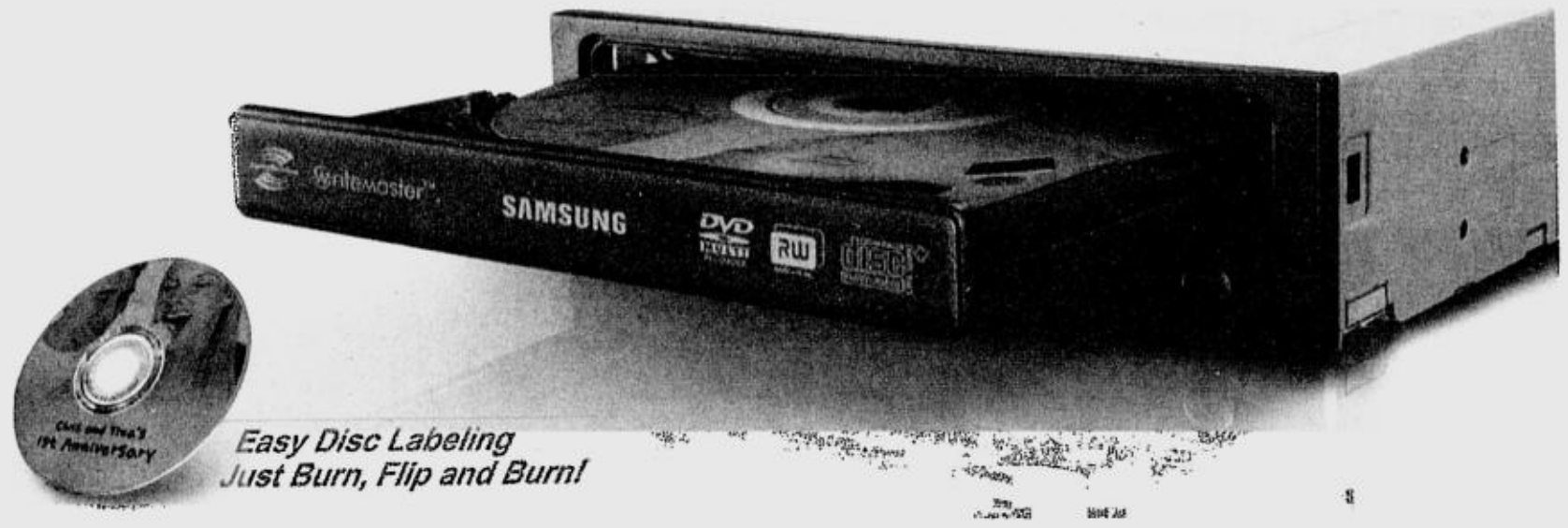

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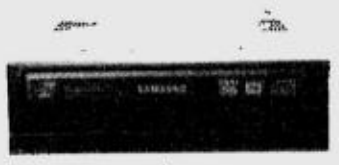
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With Binay back as mayor, Makati is back to normal

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A DAY AFTER THE COURT OF Appeals upheld Mayor Jejomar Binay's claim to his job, it was business as usual in Makati: the mayor was back in his usual garb of white barong and gray slacks, offices at the City Hall hummed with activity and President Macapagal-Arroyo's critics were again marching on Ayala.

For the first time since Monday night, when he barricaded himself in his 22-story office stronghold, Binay yesterday walked back into the old City Hall building, where administration forces trying to oust him had encamped, to see if they had damaged anything.

"Was there anything broken?" Binay asked the building's keepers.

"None, sir," they replied.

Binay got back to work as chief of the nation's financial capital after rising from the longest sleep he had had since the three-day standoff with Malacañang began on Tuesday.

Over at Makati's business district, several thousand protesters waved banners and held up placards in a "rally against repression."

They assailed the Arroyo administration over a number of issues: political killings, libel cases filed against journalists, rebellion cases filed against opposition figures and the Palace-backed Charter change proposal.

"Repression goes beyond Binay. Binay is just one face. We have to show that the whole issue of repression remains," said Wilson Fortaleza, president of the militant group Sanlakas.

'Whatever Gloria wants'

For Amina Rasul of the United Opposition (UNO), the rally was an outlet for pent-up emotions aroused by the administration attempt to oust Binay from his seat.

"This is a celebration of sorts because the mayor won the day. The Court of Appeals has seen the reality that one cannot just remove him. This is a victory for the opposition," Rasul told the INQUIRER.

The protest again brought together opposition figures. such as former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, former Ambassador Roy Señeres, Laban ng Masa's Francisco Nemenzo, known administration critic Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias, and supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada and the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., whom the opposition said was robbed by Ms Arroyo of victory in the May 2004 election.

"We will continue the fight because what is really happening is that there is no more rule of law. Whatever Gloria wants, that becomes law," Tobias said.

JAMMING IN MAKATI: Opposition forces jam together in exultation over city Mayor Binay's first-round victory, which, however causes a horrendous traffic jam on Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas on Friday. RAFFY LERMA

Estrada's call

In a taped statement played during the rally, Estrada said in Filipino: "Let's defend Makati, defend democracy, defend the Filipino nation. Let us not allow the government's deception and (let us) fight an administration that steals, cheats and lies and is not elected by the people."

The gathering, which closed one side of Paseo de Roxas and Ayala Avenue, ended at past 5 p.m. Police said the crowd peaked at 2,000, while organizers said 5,000 took part.

The Binay who came to work yesterday was no longer wearing a Marine colonel's uniform, which had flustered senior officers of the Armed Forces.

Instead, Binay appeared in barong and wore his familiar black leather shoes.

After winning the appellate court's decision, Binay returned home Thursday night in an upbeat mood.

Halloween theme

"Everything that happened had something to do with Halloween. There were the ghost employees and we had a caretaker. What else is a caretaker but a *sepulturero*?" the mayor joked at a press conference.

At the old City Hall building, which two-day caretaker Rodolfo Feraren had used to hold office, Binay saw Feraren's wooden nameplate, which the latter had placed on top of the mayor's old table while playing his cameo role.

Asked about the latest storm to buffet his political career, the 63-year-old mayor said: "It was really a terrible experience. I received so many text messages, letters, e-mails of support ... But last night was a good night and I managed to sleep at 11:30 p.m. I woke up before 6 a.m., I said a prayer and then I read."

While Binay returned to his routine, arch rival Roberto Brillante, who had accused the mayor of hiring ghost employees, poured out his frustration over the court's decision.

"I'm confident that when the justices are enlightened on the issue, they'll reverse their decision and set aside the TRO," said Brillante.

Binay told: It ain't over; gov't to seek immediate lifting of 60-day TRO

From page A1

"We will ... assert that there is basis [for suspending Binay] and that the Office of the President has authority to suspend city mayors in the proper cases," Nachura said in a telephone interview.

He said his office would file Monday its response to the court's decision granting Binay's petition for a TRO.

Binay and the 17 other Makati local officials ordered suspended by the Palace are "not yet off the hook," said Ms Arroyo's congressional ally, Rep. Benasing Macarambon of Lanao del Sur.

Macarambon said Binay and the others still had to refute allegations by former Makati Vice Mayor Roberto Brillante that he and other City Hall officials benefited from the P113.1 million in salaries for the 1,235 supposedly ghost employees kept on the City Hall payroll from Jan. 1, 2005 until June this year.

No due process

In his petition contesting Malacañang's preventive suspension order against him, Binay said due process was not observed when the complaint against him was filed and when he was later suspended.

He also said the complaint also did not identify the so-called ghost employees.

Gonzalez said the appellate court went beyond its limits when it stopped not only the enforcement of the suspension order but also the government's investigation into the case of the ghost employees.

"This (CA) decision is erroneous, there is enough basis to question it," said Gonzalez.

A little unfair

"First, there is a little unfairness here because the TRO was issued without us being given a copy of the (Binay) petition itself, so how could we object?" Gonzalez said.

"Second, we believe the TRO is moot considering that it was issued to stop that which has already taken place. We consider that (suspension) as having been served and he has received notice of it. That is why he holed himself up in his room without leaving and there was an OIC (officer in charge) already appointed."

The court released its decision granting Binay the TRO hours after DILG officials had gone to the Makati City Hall and posted the suspension order on a wall after Binay barricaded himself in his 21st floor office.

No vendetta

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the case against Binay remained alive.

"The process of reviewing the case and disciplining erring local officials is still in place," Puno told reporters.

He said the case "has not been extinguished. He (Binay) has not been exonerated. ... He still has to explain away the charges, he still has to respond to them."

Malacañang denied that Binay's suspension was a political vendetta against Ms Arroyo's critics.

"We maintain that we have acted in good faith on a complaint filed before the executive sans any partisan considerations," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a briefing.

Bunye said the Palace looked at the TRO as part of the justice system.

Crisis defused

"What is important is that the concerned parties are able to continue within the framework of law rather than force. The executive branch adheres to the rule of law and not to the rule of the mob," said Bunye.

Although the court ruling favored an irrepressible Malacañang critic, administration allies in the House of Representatives still welcomed it, saying it defused a potentially explosive situation.

Rep. Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar, vice chair of the committee on justice, said the injunction prevented a "chaotic situation" in the country's financial center.

"This is a relief for everyone concerned. It helped put an end to (a) standoff ... which could have given the country another political black eye," said Libanan.

Other House members said the surge of stocks to their highest level in seven years on Thursday and the peso's continuing appreciation attested to the resiliency of the economy.

"It showed that the Makati City Hall crisis was not enough to rattle the markets and that businessmen remained confident that the government was in full control of the situation," said Kampi Rep. Rodito Albano III of Isabela. *With reports from Christine Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac*

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

ABS-CBN insists DOJ ruling on 'Wowowee' case has no basis

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ABS-CBN INSISTS THAT IT IS NOT CRIMInally liable for the Ultra tragedy, which killed 71 contestants in a stampede that broke out during the anniversary special of its noontime game show "Wowowee" in February.

In an official statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, ABS-CBN said that it "disagrees with the decision of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to file charges against its officers and production staff."

According to the DOJ, among the 17 ABS-CBN executives and employees that should face charges of "reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide" are Willie Revillame, "Wowowee" host; Charo Santos-Concio, Channel 2 head; Cory Vidanes, senior vice president for television production; Marilou Almaden, executive producer; and Cipriano Luspo, assistant vice president and head of security.

The network reiterated its "position that there is no evidence to support the DOJ's decision."

The statement also pointed out that "DOJ's decision is not the final ruling on this legal issue. It will be up to the courts of law to finally decide if the DOJ is correct and whether or not there is any criminal liability on the part of ABS-CBN officers and production staff."

In the same statement, the network "assured the public that it will continue to provide support and assistance to the victims of the stampede through the 71 Dreams Foundation."

Attached with the statement is a report on the foundation's work, prepared by Fr. Tito Caluag, 71 Dreams managing director, on Aug. 4, "the sixth-month anniversary" of the tragedy.

According to Caluag, "out of 71 families, 30 have started the second phase of the discussions, which will move them closer to firming up long-term plans."

The report also identified the "needs" of various families: "educational assistance, 91 persons; employment, 41 applicants; rice allowance, 14 families; housing, 6 families; medical assistance, 4 persons; livelihood, 42 families."

Caluag also acknowledged that the foundation is "working closely with Bayan Microfinance for the livelihood of 41 families" and is "discussing with Habitat for Humanity" the possibility of "a partnership to address the housing needs of 6 families."

Caluag said that the foundation "hopes to complete the long-term plans of all 71 families by the end of October."

In the same report, the priest also related the "formal election" of actor Aga Muhlach as the sixth trustee of the 71 Dreams board. Muhlach joins ABS-CBN chair and CEO Gabby Lopez, ABS-CBN independent board member Emily Abrera, senior vice president for Business Development Monchet Olives, Concio and Caluag in the foundation's board of trustees.

A seventh trustee is set to be elected in the next board meeting this month, said Caluag in the report.

Gov't seeks FAA okay of Naia 3

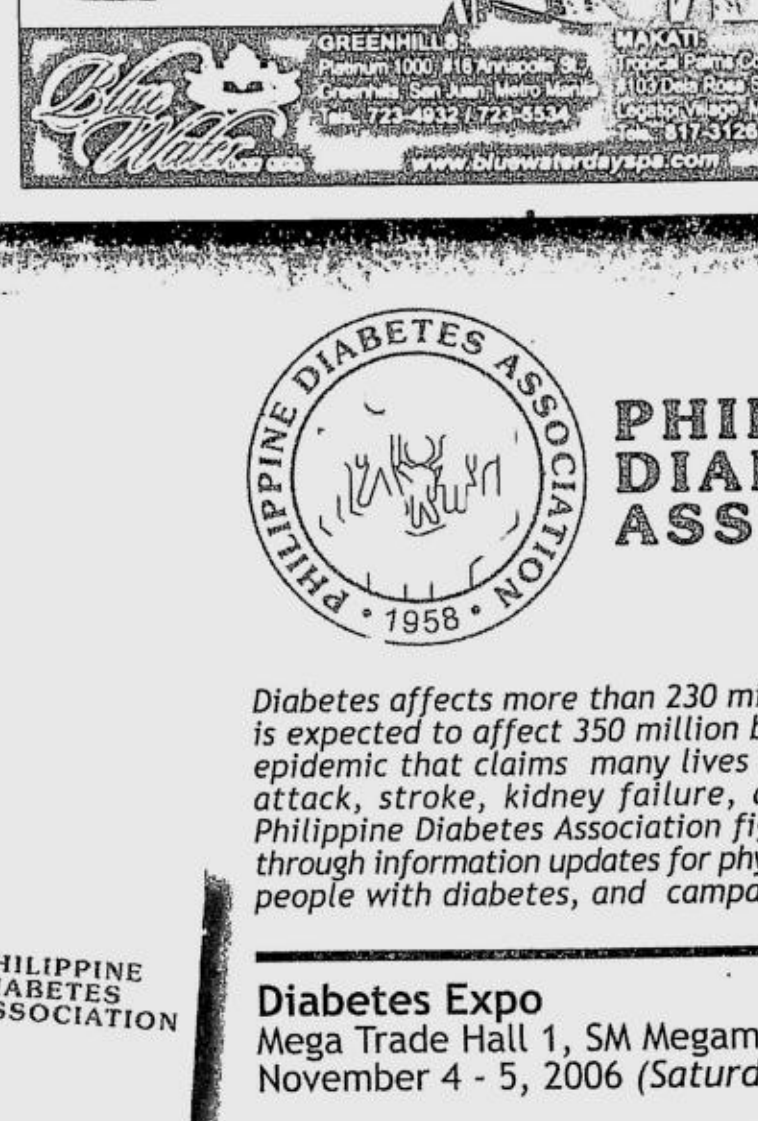
THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION HAS placed the Ninoy Aquino International Air Terminal 3 for safety inspection by the US Federal Aviation Authority as part of its goal of opening the idle facility to tourists and investors early next year.

"We will open Naia as soon as the Federal Aviation Agency (sic) accepts its safety features," said President Macapagal-Arroyo in a speech during the 32nd Philippine Business Conference.

The FAA is an agency of the US Department of Transportation, charged with regulating air commerce, promoting aviation safety, and overseeing the operation of airports, including air traffic control. The FAA and the European Aviation Safety Agency are the two main agencies responsible for monitoring airports worldwide.

The government has taken control of Naia 3 after it paid P3.2 billion down payment to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) which built the facility. Piatco is demanding $500 million in compensation for the project but the government maintained that true cost was closer to $320 million.

The government expropriated Naia 3 after the Supreme Court voided Piatco's contract for serious irregularities in its contract. Government lawyers said the payment did not preclude the government from pursuing charges of corruption and anti-dummy law violations against Piatco. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*



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ANTI-INSURGENCY FIGHT

Wanted: 3,000 soldiers, 8,000 Cafgus

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY WILL RECRUIT ABOUT 3,000 soldiers and 8,000 militiamen for its counter-insurgency campaign as it vowed to cut in half the strength of communist rebels by 2010.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. announced in command conference in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the recruitment of more soldiers and Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) members.

"This is in line with the President's directive to defeat the Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front by year 2010," he told reporters.

Stay-behind units

"AFP efforts will concentrate on the most advanced guerilla fronts ... in order to relegate their capability to an inconsequential level, meaning the reduction of their capability by 50 percent," he added.

Latest military reports pegged the NPA strength at 7,400 armed members.

According to Esperon, half of the 3,000 new troops will act as "cadres" or leaders to the new CAFGU units while the other half will augment field units.

He said they were authorized to form as many as 90 CAFGU companies with a total of 7,920 members.

Each CAFGU company will have 88 paramilitary troops and 12 soldiers who will act as their "cadres."

Esperon said these CAFGU units would serve as "village defense or stay-behind units" while military troops raid suspected NPA hideouts.

The Army employs 52,740 CAFGU volunteers at present who receive a "subsistence allowance" of P60 a day.

Esperon said the CAFGU forces will be recruited from barangays identified to be NPA hotspots.

Maintain tactical advantage

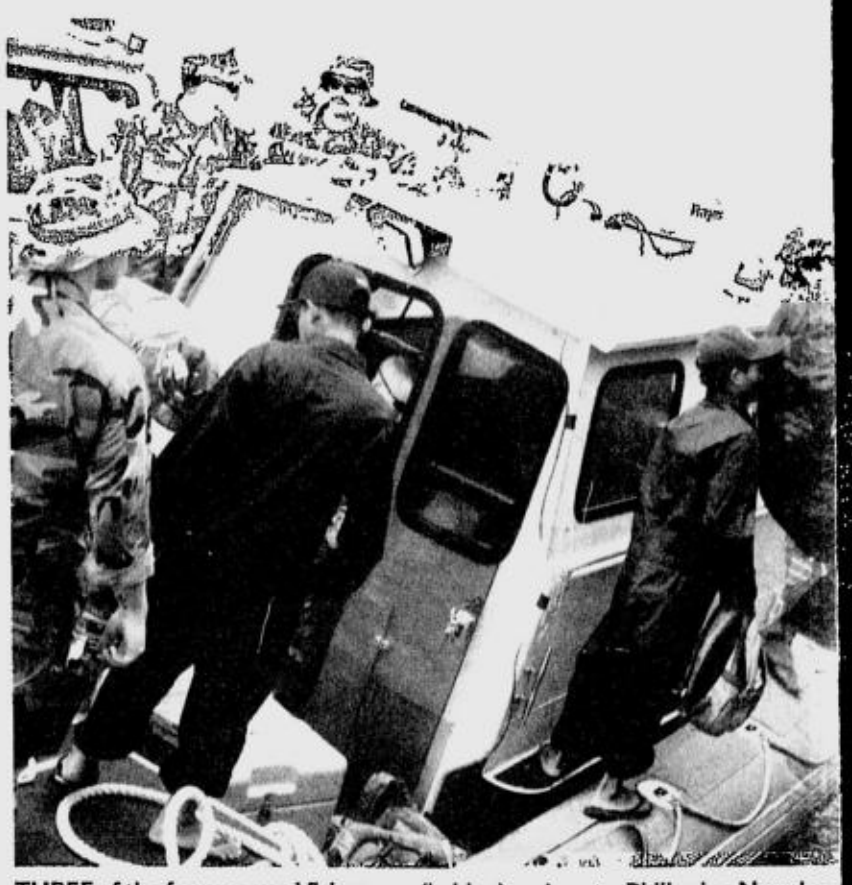
He said "Priority 1" areas are the regions of Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Bicol while "Priority 2" areas are the Caraga region and the provinces of Samar and Davao.

"The recruitment of CAFGUs would depend on the recommendation of the barangay officials and mayors since they would be sourced from the barangays themselves," he said.

Esperon also announced yesterday that three more battalions or 1,500 troops would be deployed to Sulu to augment the 12 battalions or 6,000 troops already there hunting down Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah leaders since Aug. 1.

In justifying the fresh deployment, Esperon said they wanted to maintain their "tactical advantage" against the group of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani and Indonesian JI bomb experts Umar Patek and Dulmatin, both wanted for the 2002 Bali bombings.

"We are really determined to finish off the high value targets ... So 7,500 troops is just enough in our assessment," he said.



THREE of the four rescued fishermen (in blue) arrive at a Philippine Navy bas were rescued by US Navy personnel.

US Navy rescues 4 Pino

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE US NAVY rescued four Filipino fishermen found clinging to the wreckage of their vessel off Caladagan Island in Palawan after two days at sea, officials and survivors said Friday.

The four fishermen, identified as Raymundo Digracia, 16, Andrew Sumandal, 25, Jimmy Digracia, 41 and Johnny Digracia, 28, all of Puyo Island in Palawan, were brought to a military hospital here yesterday for treatment.

Their motorboat was destroyed by huge waves off Palawan.

The four fishermen, pale and close to death, said they survived by clinging onto the wreckage and drinking seawater.

"We floated for hours by clinging to the wreckage. We were starving. We didn't even have water to drink," Jimmy said.

In a statement, the US Navy said a SH-60B Seahawk helicopter was conducting routine training flights when it noticed the men Thursday aboard a submerged craft and waving a white banner.

Lt. James Santymire, officer in-charge of the US Navy personnel manning the two rubber boats that rescued the fishermen, said pilots of the helicopter immediately radioed the nearby High Speed Vessel (HSV) Swift, a US naval logistics vessel, which sent a smaller boat out to rescue the fishermen.

Sgt. Rod Erece, a Filipino-American, told the INQUIRER they immediately plucked the four out of the sea and were fed.

"Then we clothed them and let them rest for a while," he said. Raymundo said they left Puyo Island around 10

RP remains 'pill countr

THE PHILIPPINES REMAINS A "PILL country," according to Organon Phil., the Anglo-American pharmaceutical company that is a leading manufacturer of medicines for gynecology, mental health, anesthesia and cardiovascular health.

Organon based its statement on interviews with Filipino midwives who are advocates of family planning and the need for couples to choose the best method of planning their families based on informed choices.

Midwives, considered the "foot soldiers" in the country's family planning campaign, said the pill remained popular because, aside being an effective contraceptive method, it helped women who plan to have more children at a later time.

"If these women desire another pregnancy, all they have to do is to get off the pill. This is in contrast to tubal ligation, another modern method of contraception, which is permanent and irreversible," said Celestina C. Chua, vice president of Midwives Foundation of the Philippines and an officer of the San Juan Population Commission.

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e in Zamboanga City Friday. The four AFP

y fishermen

p.m. Wednesday to fish, but strong winds and huge waves battered their fishing boat. He said around 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, water started getting inside the boat.

Two hours later, Raymundo said, huge waves finally destroyed their boat.

Sumandal said as early as 8 a.m. on Thursday, several commercial and cargo vessels have already spotted them.

"They just looked on us. They did not help," he said.

He identified one of the foreign vessels which ignored them as MV Shiansi.

The Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said the fishermen would undergo medical check up at the Camp Navarro Hospital here before their turnover to Palawan officials. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao with AFP report*

LGUs told to enlist aid of civilians vs terrorists

By Norman Bordadora

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO Puno has asked local government executives in Mindanao to employ civilian volunteer organizations, which may include armed barangay "tanods" (village guards), to combat terrorism in southern Philippines.

In an antiterror conference in Cagayan de Oro held this week, Puno also urged Mindanao officials to find out how many members of CVOs would be deputized to augment the forces in the antiterrorism effort in their jurisdiction.

"The deputation of CVO's is in accordance with Executive Order No. 546, which on top of making the Philippine National Police a coequal partner of the military in fighting insurgency and other security threats, also authorizes the use of barangay *tanods* as force multipliers in the campaign to wipe out these threats," Puno said.

Puno said the local officials should also determine the resources that could be allocated in the fight against terrorism at the local level and coordinate with the PNP regarding the training of CVOs.

"Members of CVOs would have to pass stringent requirements and undergo basic antiterrorism training before they can be recruited and deputized by the PNP," Puno said.

Puno said all CVO members would have to be issued identification cards and register with the PNP to be legitimately deputized by the police.

"They should also register all firearms that may be issued to them with the PNP and closely coordinate with the police for supervision and reporting," Puno said.

y,' says medical firm

Organon cited surveys done in 2003 and 2004 supporting the midwives' contention. In 2003, the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) showed that 13 percent of married Filipino women aged 15 to 49 were using contraceptive pills to prevent pregnancy. The survey also revealed that 48.1 percent of the respondents were willing to use pills in the future and pay an average of P77 per month.

A 2004 Family Planning Survey (FPS) showed the pill to be the no. 1 choice of Filipino women (15.6 percent), followed by tubal ligation or female sterilization (9.4 percent), calendar method (6.9 percent) and withdrawal (6.8 percent).

The FPS survey also showed that the majority of women using oral contraceptives were in the 25 to 29 age range.

Chua noted that one of the more popular oral contraceptives in the market was a low-dose pill that contains ethinylestradiol and desogestrel.

"The use of this pill helps make a woman's period lighter, shorter, more regular and less painful," she said.

She said the low-dose pill had a better safety profile compared to the so-called "first generation" pill as it has no significant effect on blood pressure, hemostasis, lipid metabolism and carbohydrate metabolism.

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IPR

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WEEK

EVENTS CALENDAR

October 4
"Catch IP Seminar: Kontra Gapi Workshop"
1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, 6/F IP Philippines Building

A workshop on Filipino folk music and instruments plus song and dance performances by independent music group Kontra Gapi.

October 9
"Protecting IPR to Drive Growth in the Cable and Satellite Industry"
9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel

A training program of the Intellectual Property Rights Protection (IP Protect) that aims to broaden the understanding of government officials on Intellectual Property law enforcement in the cable and satellite industry. In collaboration with the Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia (CASBAA) and the Philippine Cable Television Association (PCTA) and IP Philippines.

October 10 to 13
PHILJA-Training program for Hearing Officers of the Intellectual Property Office"
9:00 am to 5:00 pm, 6/F IP Philippines Building

Training for the IP Philippines' Bureau of Legal Affairs (BLA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) hearing officers by the Philippine Judicial Academy (PhilJA) on IPR laws, jurisprudence and adjudication procedures.

October 18
"Forum with Stakeholders
9:00 am to 11:00 am, 6/F IP Philippines Building

A forum on IP issues and developments for IP Philippines stakeholders.

October 23
Opening of "Disenyong Orig...Atin Ito
IP Philippines Industrial Design Exhibit
8:30 am, G/F IP Philippines Office

Filipino artistry showcased in an exhibit of outstanding designs in home and office furniture, handicrafts, decorative articles and personal accessories. Open to the public until November 17.

October 27
Launch of "PhilPATENT O-Search" and "e-Gazette Patents"
9:00 to 11:00 am, 6/F IP Philippines

IP Philippines will launch its Philippine Patent Online Search System (PhilPatent O-Search), a system that enables users to conduct simple and comprehensible searches on granted and published pending patent documents. It will also introduce e-Gazette Patents, a system that will serve as the official publication of issued patents, replacing the paper version of the IP Philippines Official Gazette.

"IPRalan Challenge
12:00 nn to 1:00 pm, DZMM

Four weekly episodes to be aired over DZMM that will feature recent issues and developments concerning intellectual property. A collaboration of IP Philippines with DZMM radio station of ABS-CBN.

October 29
Jazz Up Your Shirt and Denims" Contest
10:00 am to 8:00 pm, Glorietta Activity Center

A fashion design competition sponsored by Levi's Strauss & Co., featuring students from all levels who will create their most artistic shirt or denim design on Levi's merchandise.

OTHER IPR EVENTS:

OCTOBER 4-5
IPAA Seminar: "The Business of Creativity"
9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Dusit Hotel

Conducted by the Intellectual Property Alumni Association of the Philippines (IPAA) and sponsored by the Japan Institute for Invention and Innovation (JIII), Japan Patent Office (JPO), IP Philippines and the Asia-Pacific Industrial Property Center (APIC).

OCTOBER 13
IP in the Publishing Industry
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Gabaldon Room, Club Filipino

A joint project of the Philippine Educational Publishers' Association (PEPA) and the Philippine Reproduction Rights Organization (PRRO).

OCTOBER 17
IPR Seminar for Cebu SME's
12.00 nn to 3.30 pm, Cebu City

In cooperation with the IP Alliance of Cebu.

OCTOBER 20
"Strategic Intellectual Property Assets Management and Commercialization"
9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Manila Golf Club

A seminar-workshop organized by the Licensing Executives Society of the Philippines (LESP), in collaboration with Microsoft Philippines.

OCTOBER 27
"Symposium on Intellectual Property"
9:00am to 5:30pm, Hotel Philippine Plaza

A symposium on IPR protection and enforcement in the Motorcycle Industry, organized by the Motorcyle Development Program Participants Association, Inc. (MDPPA) and the Federation of Asian Motorcycle Industries (FAMI).

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

ISSN 0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 21 No. 315

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

Rice and pork

EDITORIAL

AFTER YEARS OF FEASTING ON PORK, LAWMAKERS seem to be making sure there will be rice to go with it this time. Aside from a bigger pork barrel, the Arroyo administration and its allies in the House of Representatives have allocated some P3 billion for a "feeding program" to be carried out in public elementary schools this year. For next year, the amount will be raised to almost P5 billion under the appropriations billed approved by the House. Under this program, instead of the "nutribun," rice will be rationed to schoolchildren not only to reduce the incidence of malnutrition, but also to encourage class attendance.

Sen. Edgardo Angara had a mouthful to say about the program. He said it would not address the problem of malnutrition among children; it is a "disguised rice importation program using the schoolchildren as a façade," and favoring importers who support the government; it is another huge pork barrel to be used for buying votes next elections.

Sen. Alfredo Lim agreed: "The long and short of it is, this (feeding program) is for the buying of votes." It is "electioneering," in violation of the Omnibus Election Code, he added.

Instead of defending the program, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya lashed back at Angara. "It's a program that in its inception Senator Angara put in an amendment. He gave inputs and this program has now become the milk-and-breakfast program. So how can that be a scam?"

It would not be surprising if the suspicions of the two opposition senators are proven right. After all, this is an administration that, after grabbing the reins of power in 2001 under the banner of good governance and transparency, has been most remarkable for "missing" public funds, its aversion to accountability, and its doggedness in blocking investigations of irregularities linking any of its officials. And there are enough grounds to justify Angara's and Lim's anxieties. For one, the multibillion-peso feeding program reminds us of, among many other things, the P728-million fertilizer fund and the recovered $683 million (P38 billion) Marcos wealth, most of which reportedly vanished during the 2004 elections. For another, very few congressmen have shown any aversion to dipping their fingers into any project, especially when big sums are involved.

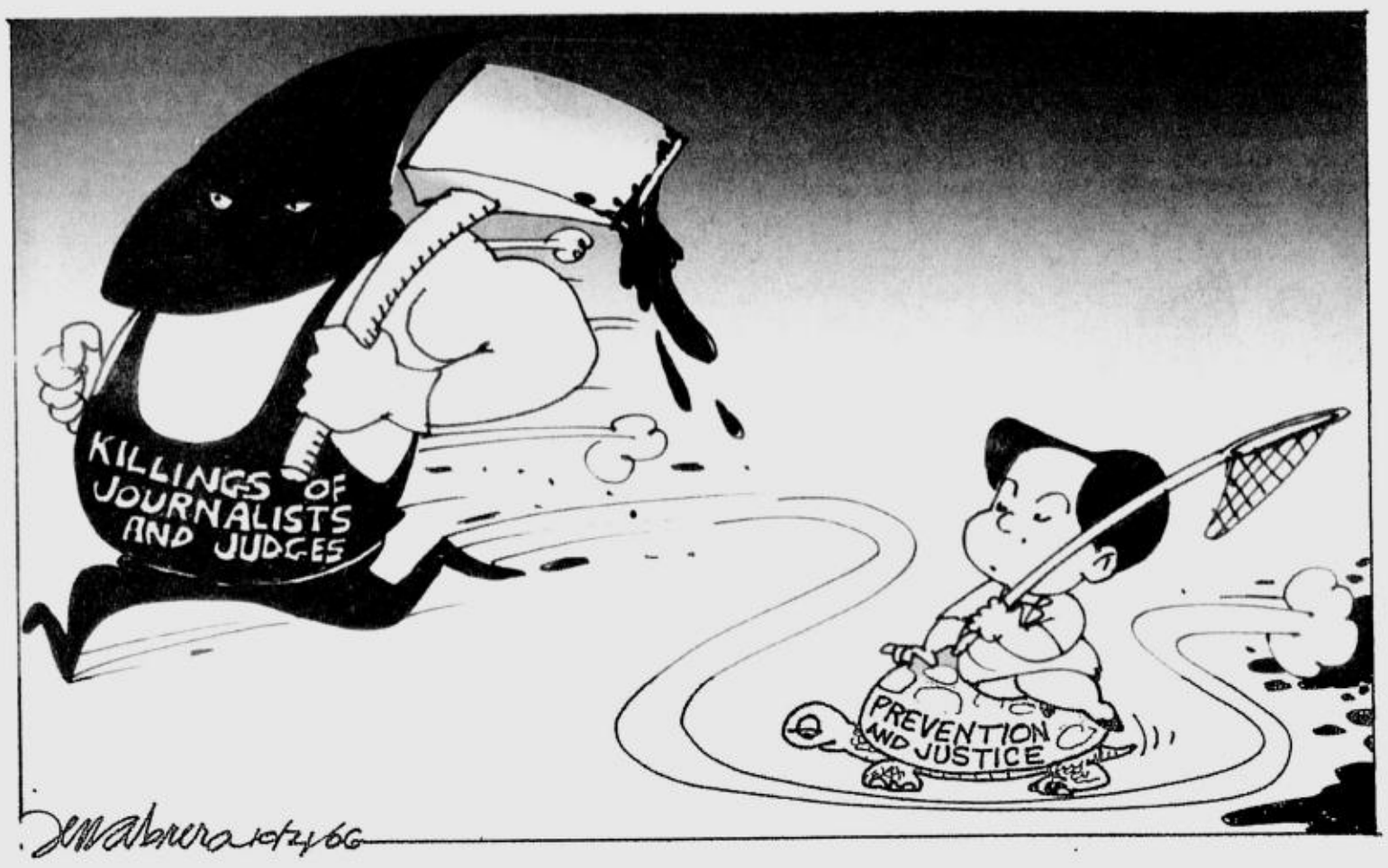
Then, too, the members of the majority coalition of the House of Representatives are known to love playing the "numbers game," a game they played masterfully in the impeachment case against the President. They continue to flaunt their superior number in their campaign to change the Constitution. The feeding program is another opportunity for them to play the game—this time to preserve their ranks.

In the budget for 2007 approved by the House, the congressmen have already "restored to their pre-2004 levels" (read: increased) the pork barrel allocations—from P40 million to P70 million for each House member, and from P120 million to P200 million for each senator. Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin and Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso justified the increase in a joint statement as "fair, not for election purposes, but for the government to pay back the people ... for all their sacrifice to help save the country from its fiscal woes a couple of years ago."

But were the people really deprived of their "due" when the pork barrel was supposedly slashed by P30 million during the last two years when the huge budget deficit was threatening to sink the economy? Not really, if we go by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda's unabashed admission that pro-administration congressmen got P30 million more from Malacañang during the "lean" years. And it was certainly not just coincidence that those who got the added largesse were the same lawmakers who had closed ranks behind the beleaguered chief executive. In fact, those increased pork-barrel allocations had "payback" written all over them.

Salapuddin and Veloso assured the public that the increase in their pork barrel is "not for election purposes." But at least Salceda is more honest. "I think the restoration is reasonable, next year being an election year," he said.

With the larger congressional pork barrel supplemented by the rice distribution program, the outcome of next year's elections is cooked—in favor of the incumbent lawmakers, of course.



The blight of billboards

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LIKE MANY OTHER COLUMNISTS, I ALSO wrote against billboards and asked that they be banned. In fact, I did it twice, the first on March 3, 2003 and the second on Oct. 23, 2004. Nobody listened until Milenyo howled the message loud and clear. Now everybody is blaming the government for having done nothing. The advertising lobby must have been tremendous.

Somebody even suggested that banning the billboards might violate freedom of expression which also applies to advertisements. True, but even this precious freedom is subject to the police power. This is briefly defined as the inherent power of the State to promote the public welfare by restraining or regulating the use of liberty and property.

Because of the increasing complexity of the modern society, the reach of the police power has correspondingly expanded. Activities or things regarded before as exclusively private are now considered subject to government regulation as long as they affect the public interest directly or even only indirectly.

In People v. Pomar, 46 Phil. 440, decided in 1924, the Supreme Court held that an employment contract was a private agreement that could not be controlled by the State even for the purpose of protecting the worker. Now such intrusion is allowed and even required under the social justice policy. The compulsions of the police power have practically repealed the prohibition against the impairment of the obligation of contracts also mandated in the Bill of Rights.

The General Welfare Clause so familiar to law students enumerates but not exclusively the matters affecting the public interest and therefore subject to the compulsions of the police power. These include the people's right to health and safety, peace and order, comfort and convenience, morality, economic prosperity, cultural enrichment, technological and scientific advancement, among many other desiderata of good government.

As early as in the 1915 case of Churchill and Tait v. Rafferty, 32 Phil. 581, our Supreme Court had already held that the promotion of aesthetic values was also within the embrace of the police power. Interestingly, the subject was billboards, and the question was whether or not the government could prohibit them when offensive to the sense of sight. The Court said it could.

To begin with, it held that although billboards were erected on private property, their usefulness depended on their attractiveness to the people on the public highways. "Ostensibly located on private property," Justice Trent observed, "the real and sole value of the billboard is its proximity to the public thoroughfares. Hence, we conceive that the regulation of billboards and their restriction is not so much a regulation of private property as it is a regulation of the use of the streets and other public thoroughfares."

On the more serious issue of the purpose of the restriction, the Court had the following to say:

"Without entering into the realm of psychology, we think it quite demonstrable that sight is as valuable to any human being as any of his other senses, and the proper ministration to this sense conduces as much to his contentment as the care bestowed upon the sense of hearing or smell. Objects may be offensive to the eye as well as to the nose or ear. Man's aesthetic feelings are consistently appealed to through his sense of sight... Why, then, should the Government not interpose to protect from annoyance this most valuable of man's senses as readily as to protect him from offensive noises and smells?"

The present campaign against billboards affects not only the people's artistic sensibilities but the hundreds of lives that may again be lost or injured and the millions of pesos of property that may be destroyed by the fury of another typhoon like the recent Milenyo that devastated many parts of Luzon. And let us not forget the natural beauty of the trees and the verdant landscapes concealed from the appreciative eyes of the beholder by the obtrusive billboards.

Praise then to civic-spirited citizens like Consuelo D. Sison who at age 86 still had the energy and resolve to persuade the government of Quezon City to adopt a new ordinance to impose stricter measures against the resurgence of billboards. These nuisances have exposed, at a terrible loss of lives and property, the unctuous obedience of our government to the demands of commercial advertising over the higher interests of the people.

MMDA Chief Bayani Fernando should not be included among his mercenary colleagues because he is the most militant opponent of the blight of billboards. Many, if not all, of the local officials in Metro Manila, especially those from the cities most uglified by billboards, have not exercised similar concern for their constituents, probably because of the more persuasive inducements of the billboard advertisers.

The removal of the billboards will deprive red-blooded Filipino males of the joy of gawking at the beautiful billboard models selling lingerie and tractors. What I will especially relish is the tearing down of those billboards advertising an insurance company with the commonplace face of a man who probably thinks he has the same magnetism as a seductive young starlet.

Star-chamber tactics

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I CERTAINLY AGREE THAT THE TIMING OF Makati Mayor Jojo Binay's preventive suspension was bad. Coming so close after that of Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad's, it is easy to reach the conclusion (propounded by Binay, seconded by San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, who claims he will be next, and chorused by the rest of the opposition) that these are all part of a clearing-the-deck operation by an administration intent on wresting political power away from the opposition in Metro Manila come next year's elections, by hook or by crook.

If the timing is bad, the quality of the ghost-employee charges brought by former Makati councilor Roberto Brillante is worse. So is the reasoning used by the Office of the President in its order imposing the preventive suspension, signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

How do I know? I read them all (and I thank the GMA-7 "Debate" Research Staff for their good work).

In a nutshell, Brillante does not seem to be able to distinguish between the meaning of the words "some" and "all"—and neither does the Office of the President (OP).

Brillante presents, as his evidence, a list of Makati City Hall employees—650 for 2005 and 585 for 2006—claiming that "SOME" of the names listed (he conducted a "discrete" [*sic*] investigation) are not "actually and physically working" (which is why he describes them as "ghost and 15-30 employees") in the offices of Binay, his vice mayor and all the councilors. However, the amount he cites as having been defrauded from the city government corresponds to what looks like the average salary of a city employee (P120,000 a year) multiplied by all the names on the list (P78 million for 2005 is equal to 650 employees multiplied by P120,000). That's it. That's the whole ball of wax of his "evidence."

The OP then commits the same mistake, because it considers the Brillante list as "strong evidence of guilt that some of the employees may be 'ghost employees' from their respective offices, collecting salaries from the city government to the prejudice of the latter."

Excuse me. The list may be eyebrow-raising—the vice mayor's office lists 266 employees, while the mayor's office has 70—but in no way can a list of names be considered "strong" evidence of anything. Shades of star-chamber proceedings.

This is not to say that there are no ghost employees. This is merely to say that Brillante did not appear to present any strong evidence of their existence. And by-the-by, the temporary restraining order issued by the Court of Appeals is at least some, arguably strong, evidence that we are not under martial law, creeping or covert.

All the foregoing having been said, it cannot and should not be concluded that Jojo Binay is some kind of saint, martyr and hero all rolled into one, or even just the guy in the white hat. In the first place, benefiting when closely allied with the national administration and suffering when in opposition is part of a politician's the wheel-is-round life, and is political reality (unfortunately). One recalls that during his first term as elected mayor, Binay was implicated in a corruption scandal, with the whistle-blower being his running-mate and vice mayor, Conchitina Sevilla Bernardo, who presented all sorts of documents that she said supported her charges. Binay survived unscathed.

I cannot recall what his political ties were with the Ramos administration, but certainly he was again on top with Joseph Estrada in Malacañang. In any case, no graft and corruption charges against him in the past have ever stuck, except now, with the Office of the Ombudsman recently filing criminal charges against him with the Sandiganbayan. Is that because he has not been corrupt, and the recent charges are merely manufactured by a vengeful administration?

Moreover, if a former-ally-turned-opponent is to be believed, it seems Binay is no stranger to star-chamber-like tactics. Businessman Oscar Ibay, a councilor of Makati between 1995 and 2004 (who garnered the highest number of votes in the 1998 and again in the 2001 elections although he could not campaign during the latter period), and one of Binay's opponents in the mayoral elections in 2004, cites two examples:

First, Barangay captain Ramonito Tantoy of Barangay Rizal was accused of purchasing P60,000 worth of fumigation equipment without authority (no overpricing involved), and the one-page complaint was filed with the City Council, which formed an ad-hoc committee to look into it (with Ibay as chair). Before any hearing could be conducted, says Ibay, Binay issued a preventive suspension order—and then proceeded to instruct the members of the committee to recommend Tantoy's ouster (Ibay said he argued against the penalty as being too harsh.)

Second, there's the case of Joey Villena of Barangay Poblacion. He was elected as chairman in the 2002 elections. His opponent protested, but after a battle in the municipal trial court, and then in the Commission on Elections, Villena was declared winner. But he was not allowed to assume the position, according to Ibay, with the mayor ordering the police to bar Villena's entry into the barangay hall. Instead, Binay took over as chairman flouting not only the order but also the law that provides that should the chairman be unable to assume his duties, the kagawad with the next highest number of votes should do it.

Ibay says the records will bear him out. In that case, Binay criticizing the Office of the President is like the pot calling the kettle black.

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Questions about CA's TRO

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AFTER CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PANGANIBAN told the media the other day that the Supreme Court was getting a lot of pressure regarding the people's initiative petition, some people opposing the initiative immediately concluded that the pressure is coming from those who are for it. This is most unfair and a bit hypocritical. It's obvious that both sides have been keenly following this issue and pressure must be coming from both sides. This is because so much is at stake in this case which the Court is expected to resolve next week.

* * *

The reason I am in favor of the initiative is simple: It is at the moment the only option open for amending the Constitution, given the stubborn and selfish resistance of some senators to even consider a constituent assembly, and the utter uselessness of calling a super-expensive constitutional convention which may take years to finish the job with mediocre delegates (e.g., wives and children of incumbent politicians) sitting there. This moment in our history is the ideal time to implement changes in the Charter, because the incumbent President has a less selfish motive in espousing it, since she is no longer eyeing reelection. If we wait for 2010, a new president and new members of Congress won't countenance cutting their term. If we miss out on Charter change at this time, we can kiss it goodbye for years to come. With the status quo, the country risks stagnation and political decay under our discredited presidential system, while our parliamentary neighbors race one another toward unprecedented progress.

The nation is at a crossroads, and in the hands of our magistrates lies the destiny of our country. Do we stagnate with our poisoned politics and deadlocked branches of government under a system that hasn't worked for 60 years? Or do we join the overwhelming majority of nations progressing under the modern and responsive parliamentary system of party politics and fusion of executive and legislative branches? It's time to try a new political experiment.

* * *

Last Thursday, I was talking to a guy who had worked with Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay for a long time and he opined that the administration shouldn't have raised the ghost employees charge against him, as this scheme is only for the "*galamay*" of Binay. The mayor, this person claimed, wouldn't bother with such a petty source of graft, the inference being that it's too small for him. My source said that what should be pushed are the big cases against Binay now pending before the Sandiganbayan or at the Office of the Ombudsman, many of which are based on audited reports. Those are the cases worth pursuing, he said.

I quite agree. But the question is, why is the Sandiganbayan taking forever to decide these graft cases?

* * *

The feisty Makati mayor prepared well for his konfrontasi with the administration. Even before the preventive suspension order was handed down, Binay had already filed an "anticipatory petition" for TRO before the Court of Appeals, and when the order finally was issued, he filed a second petition for TRO, which the CA considered. The Palace has to defer to the CA decision granting a 60-day TRO, as that's how the law works. It was given 10 days to comment on whether the TRO "should be lifted and/or the writ of preliminary injunction be not granted." Failure to justify the lifting of the TRO could lead to a permanent injunction, which would be disastrous to the administration's case.

* * *

Nevertheless, there are questions about that CA decision that have raised eyebrows. For instance, the TRO should have applied only to the suspension order, so why did the CA also order a stop to all investigations of the allegation concerning ghost employees? This is most unusual. If the investigations are stopped, how can the truth of the charge be established? It would seem that this aspect of the CA's decision was out of bounds and the CA doesn't seem eager to get to the bottom of this case. "Eez a puzzlement," some lawyers say.

There are also aspects of the Palace move that raise eyebrows. Considering Binay's central role as organizer and financier of opposition activities (in fact, with the detention of former President Estrada, he has become the top leader of the opposition), the suspension order against him has been criticized as defective. For instance, there was no bill of particulars to support the allegation of ghost employees. It's evident that the order was rushed, prompting speculation that the administration was trying to beat the deadline for the issuance of suspension orders before the elections. It seems that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Solicitor General Ed Nachura were not consulted, and now Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno is washing his hands, declaring that "everyone got frantic over nothing."

* * *

The Philippine General Hospital kicked off last Aug. 17 a year-long series of activities to celebrate its centennial. The nation's primary healthcare facility was founded on Aug. 17, 1907 by the Philippine Commission Act 1688, and its cornerstone was laid by Secretary of Interior Dean C. Worcester. It opened its doors on Sept. 1, 1910 and had 300 beds, at a time when the population was just 7 million. Today, the PGH, under Director Carmelo A. Alfiler, M.D., has grown to 1,500 beds and it is still modernizing its facilities. It attended to 630,000 patients in 2005.

My good friend Dr. Felipe Estrella, who was PGH director from 1986-1994, has asked for help to reach those had been issued invitations to his lecture, the second in the centennial series, titled "PGH Post-Edsa 1: Its Benefactors and Its Legacy." Estrella will speak on Wednesday, Oct. 25, instead of Oct. 24, which has been declared a holiday, being the close of Ramadan. Venue and time are the same: UP Manila Social Hall, 8/F, PGH Central Block, 8-10 a.m.

Reality bites on 'PI'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"MR. C," RYAN CAYABYAB, SOUNDED REALLY pissed on the "reveal" night last Sunday when the "Bottom Two" among the "Final 10" in "Philippine Idol" were announced. Saying he knew that the judges' observations didn't really have an impact on the way viewers voted, "Mr. C" nevertheless made his sentiments heard, noting that "if you keep voting out the best singers," then there wouldn't be much of a talent contest left and only "*kantahan ng* (the singing of) nursery rhymes."

As it turned out, Reymund Sajor received the fewest votes and was thus eliminated, but not until after giving Gian Magdangal, a clear judges' favorite from the early stages of the search, a good scare.

And in all fairness, the result was truly shocking because, judging from their performances Saturday evening, Reymund and Gian should by rights have been among the "safe" ones. Gian gave an honest and heartfelt performance of "Give Me A Chance," earning favorable reviews from Mr. C, Pilita "Mamita" Corrales and guest judge Hajji Alejandro. Reymund had the unenviable challenge of measuring up to Martin Nievera's version of "Be My Lady" without sounding like a clone. And he more than acquitted himself, performing even better Sunday, when he bade the contest farewell, than he did the night before.

Indeed, if there were any justice in this world, and based only on quality of performance and sheer talent, other finalists should have long been eliminated instead of sticking around like bubble gum on the sole of your shoes.

* * *

THERE is for instance Miguel Mendoza, notable for being the youngest among the finalists, who managed to be, in Alejandro's estimation, both sharp and flat in his performance of an otherwise easy-going ditty. I've also been rather annoyed at Ken Dingle's stage persona, and I think Alejandro again hit the nail on the head when he said Dingle was much too conscious of his technique and stage presence that he failed to connect with his audience or even get to the bottom of the emotional meaning of the song.

I think Mr. C was being kind when he advised Jeli Mateo not to try to match the belters among the finalists because "*making birit*" was not her forte. Mateo has her looks and charm going for her, and I am no fan of "*birit*" singers myself, or those fond of what Corrales calls "*kulutation*" in their singing. But clearly Mateo is out of her league and it's such a mystery why she's stuck around for so long.

Mau Marcelo, on the other hand, has a different sort of problem. Her voice is outstanding, as the judges have long been pointing out, but I can understand why she's always on the brink of being voted out. There's a chip on her shoulder that's long been evident, perhaps best exemplified when she commented that "PI" was not so much a contest about singing as a "beauty contest." Concededly, Mau has a "big" problem, but while other plus-size performers manage to distract the public with other aspects of performance, or capitalize on their body shapes, she seems to be daring the audience to overlook her talent. Perhaps it's a preemptive attack, to forestall big personal hurt if her worst fears do come to pass, but the audience can sense this and so, I think, they hesitate to "reward" her for such an attitude.

* * *

OF COURSE, it would be difficult to dictate on the fickle public how they should vote and whom they should vote for. "Charisma" is an indefinable quality, and measured not only by talent but also by accessibility to and "connectivity" with your audience. Looks won't also hurt.

Jan Nieto, among the more popular male contestants, seems to define this elusive quality, as "Mamita" pointed out, when she noted how he never loses his smile and his connection to both the live and TV audience.

Jan's mother happens to be a friend, and when we bumped into each other in a mall recently, I kidded her about how Corrales had singled her out in one show because of her excitement over her son's performance. "I thought she was going to collapse!" the "PI" judge jokingly remarked.

Jan, so his mother says, didn't really show any sign early on that he was interested in a career in performing. A Management Engineering graduate of Ateneo, he showed an avid interest in singing but didn't even get to join any singing group in college. "*Hilig lang talaga*," says his mother, "and he thought he should take this chance while he still could." She rolls her eyes heavenward when I ask how much she and the family have spent on text loads to keep Jan in the finals, but it seems having a son among the finalists entails more than buying text loads. Among the expenses involved was playing house mother to all the male finalists, especially those from out-of-town, and bearing with the heartache of letting go of those who have become "like my sons."

* * *

A WORD, too about the quality of the judging on "PI," which in my supposedly unbiased opinion is several levels above that in "American Idol," where Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson and Paula Abdul seem more concerned about mouthing cheeky one-liners than really constructive criticism.

I especially enjoyed the comments of last week's "guest judge" Alejandro, who gave very specific, detailed observations to the finalists—observations grounded on his own experience as a singer and performer. "Mamita" is really quite charming and lends the panel a warm, human and humorous touch, while there's no beating "Mr. C" for credibility and astuteness. I look forward to his promise to be more "hard-hitting" in future shows, which I take to mean that he will be more blunt and straightforward in his critiques. Yes, a little less politeness please, and fewer attempts to "save face." This is a show-biz reality show, after all, and reality bites, in or out of show biz.

Stop digging and start thinking

WORLD VIEW

Joschka Fischer

OCT. 9, 2006 WILL BECOME A DAY TO REMEMber. North Korea probably exploded a nuclear bomb on that day. Was it a test that failed? The future may provide answers, but the political fallout is clear and the impact substantial.

First, international pressure, led by the United States, China, Russia and Japan, was not enough to prevent North Korea from taking this fateful step. A terrible dictatorship, a regime without a future and a dwarf in terms of power-politics defied the international giants. There is now justifiable outrage, calls for sanctions are heard everywhere.

But what will be the effect of sanctions against a regime whose goal is survival through self-isolation, a regime that will have no qualms in ruthlessly sacrificing its people? Also, can China really permit strong sanctions against its neighbor, a regime fighting for survival, one equipped with nuclear arms and missiles, and a humanitarian disaster of the highest order among its population? Just how credible and effective can sanctions be?

Second, the United Nations Security Council now looks like a paper tiger because its authority was successfully challenged by a worn-out regime. This fact will be noted everywhere, particularly in Teheran. If the boundaries between nuclear haves and have-nots becomes more permeable, or even dissolves altogether, the entire multilateral security system could be called into question. On Oct. 9, the gate leading down this path was thrown open.

Third, the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime, which was on the brink of toppling even before North Korea's actions, is threatening to disintegrate. A number of small- and mid-sized powers will now ask themselves a radically new question: If North Korea can be a nuclear power, why not us? If in these times of militarily accomplished regime change real sovereignty can only be guaranteed by nuclear arms, why not go this route? A collapse of the non-proliferation regime will increase not only the risk of regional nuclear arms races, but also of a transfer of nuclear know-how and technology, increasing the risk of nuclear confrontation.

Fourth, the nuclear crisis triggered by North Korea demonstrates that the United States, for the first time since the Cold War's end, is no longer the main player in the international scene and that its options are both limited and problematic. Following the hand-over from Bill Clinton to George Bush, the United States gave up its strategy of engaging the North Korean regime to moderate its behavior and thus unnecessarily reduced its own options. China has now become the main player in the North Korean crisis, and in the region as a whole. This will have a serious impact across the Pacific and cause the United States to focus its strategic attention there. Europe might thus be called on to take up the slack in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East, both sooner and on a much larger scale than Europeans suspect.

So what is to be done? There is no way around a strategy of engagement and containment with regard to North Korea or the crisis will escalate. The United States will have to enter talks—direct and bilateral if necessary. Indeed, it looks like that is what will be needed. China, humiliated by Kim Jong-il, will for the first time have to assume leadership in the region and resolve, or at least contain, the crisis.

Looking to the future, the whole approach to nuclear non-proliferation must change. It is no use lamenting the real danger of nuclear proliferation, while in practice standing idle as the NPT falls apart.

If the world is not one day to consist of a few big nuclear powers and many mid-sized and small ones, then the big nuclear powers must now undertake a serious disarmament and non-proliferation initiative. Part of this initiative must be to provide, as a corollary to new disarmament requirements and control mechanisms, the assurance of non-discriminatory access to nuclear know-how, research and technology.

This will require an international institutional solution to the problem of enrichment, with participation in the enrichment process entailing new obligations, above all, the willingness to assure transparency through verification and intensive inspections. Moreover, only new strides toward disarmament by the big nuclear powers, and a guarantee of access to technology and know-how under international control, can stop the trend toward "nuclear sovereignty."

Five years after President Bush called Iraq, Iran and North Korea an "axis of evil," developments in these countries remain depressing. Iraq is a disaster, and nothing indicates that the situation can be turned around. With each day, questions about the fallout for the region become more pressing. Will it really be possible to limit the disaster to Iraq itself?

Now North Korea seems to have the Bomb. Iran is intensively working toward the same end, while continuing to expand its hegemonic position in the region. If to the "axis of evil," we add Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel and the Palestinians, along with terrorism, the resulting picture is anything but hopeful. Should the United States be tempted now, in response to the failure of its policy, to consider a military "option" against Iran, the nuclearization of the international system will not be arrested. Indeed, such a step will only push the Middle East into an explosive mega-conflict with unpredictable and uncontrollable consequences. ***Project Syndicate/Institute of Human Sciences***

Joschka Fischer was Germany's foreign minister and vice chancellor from 1998 to 2005. He is now a visiting professor at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School.

The best man

YOUNG BLOOD

Mark Anthony Saniel

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

AS I STOOD BESIDE HIM SMARTLY ATTIRED IN A RENTED suit and watching his bride walk down the aisle, I nudged him and whispered, "This is it, *'pre*! No more turning back!"

Julio whispered back, "I know. So wish me good luck, *'pre*."

Julio is 24 and a rank-and-file employee at a factory in our place. He is paid the minimum wage, and he struggles every day to make ends meet, feed his two-month-old baby and make his eight-month-old marriage work.

Julio and I have been buddies since way back in our grade-school days. Although we belong to the same *barkada*, we "click" with each other more than with anyone else in our group.

I am Robin to his Batman. And just like all sidekicks, I have always been with him in most of his endeavors, from committing naughty pranks to making the big decisions in his life. For instance, I lied when he asked me to cover up for him when he didn't go to his girlfriend's birthday party. I was there when he was torn by worries after he found out that his girlfriend was pregnant. And I quickly agreed when he asked me to stand as his best man at their wedding.

Months before the wedding, our conversations always revolved around the proper time and circumstances for getting married. We had contrary views on the matter. He insisted that it was too soon for him to get hitched, while I told him it was high time for him to do so. Getting married so early, he said, was like pointing a loaded gun to one's head and pressing the trigger. He asked rhetorically: "Can I let my family live in a cozy home? Can I provide ample food on our table? Can I assure my children a comfortable future?" Pessimism consumed him.

I countered with a most optimistic outlook. "Look at Mang Bernie," I would tell him. "He is happily married with three kids, yet his only source of income is the tricycle he drives. Why do you think he is able to survive day after day? Contentment, *'pre*. As long as you are not dreaming the impossible, you will also get by. It should be enough that you can send your kids to school, never mind if you cannot fetch them in an SUV. It should be enough that you can put decent meals on your table, never mind if you don't always have dessert. It should be enough that your house shelters you from the heat and cold, never mind if it's not located in an exclusive subdivision."

To make a long story short, Julio has indeed managed to get by along with his new family. But he has had to make some major adjustments in his life. Gone are the days when he could hang out with the *barkada* anytime. Gone are the days when he could go with me to cockfights during the fiestas of nearby towns. Gone are the days when he could follow the fads and buy himself trendy cell phones. Now, all his time, energy and money are spent on his family. Open their kitchen cabinet, and you will see stacks of canned goods and packs of instant noodles. He told me he and his wife have to stock up cheap foods so that they could save enough for their baby's expensive milk.

He has to work much harder to be able to provide for their baby's other needs. On weekends and on holidays when he doesn't have to go to work, he attaches a sidecar to his motorcycle and moonlights as a tricycle driver to earn a little more money.

According to him, his marriage tops his list of "most humbling experiences." He has to swallow his pride every time he has to approach his father to ask for some financial assistance, such as when he was building a house for his family, even if their dwelling was not much more than a pitiful shanty.

For a middle-class Filipino like Julio, raising a family in our country and in these particularly trying times has become almost as undesirable as dying. It's like what my college professor, who was unforgiving about missing examinations, said: "I don't give special examinations in case you miss taking one, except, of course, if you have a death certificate to excuse your absence—or a marriage certificate, which is as good as the former."

Seeing how Julio barely manages to provide for his family makes me feel sorry for him. I feel sorry that he has to struggle hard to ensure his family's survival because of our country's pathetic economic situation. I am afraid that unless our leaders stop bickering, this situation will only get worse. And I hate to see the same poor economic situation unfairly crushing Julio's dream of having two more children.

I feel proud of him, though, as much as I sympathize with him. I feel proud that he doesn't pin his hopes on the government raising the minimum wage. I feel proud that he has the initiative to look for other honest ways to earn additional income. I feel proud that he is responsible enough to overcome the temptations of going out with the *barkada* like he used to. And I am proud to continue playing the role of his sidekick.

I look up to Julio not only as my best friend but also as some kind of hero. That's why I think my designation as "best man" at his wedding was a mistake, because he himself was the best man at the wedding—a responsible, committed and hard working man who makes the well-being of his family his top priority. He has what it takes to carry out well the role of a good father and head of the family.

Julio's story is not unique. In fact, his story is little different from that of the average Pinoy. But it needs to be retold so that maybe, just maybe, it might prick the consciences of our political leaders who are leading luxurious lifestyles while the rest of us barely get through the day.

Mark Anthony Saniel, 24, works as a foreman at Coco Davao Inc.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Coup academy

"Is PMA training coup plotters?"

—Maj. Gen. Thawip Netniyom, Thailand coup leader and top-notcher of PMA class 1981, asked in jest.

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Nuclear bomb as self-defense

IF THE UNITED STATES DECIDES to rain missiles on North Korea because the latter now possesses nuclear weapons, then it should first nuke Pakistan, India, China, Russia, France and the United Kingdom, then Israel, its protégé, and finally itself—for all of them possess nuclear weapons.

The right to self-defense is the primordial right of individuals and of nations. This right is sanctioned by natural, international and domestic law. When US President George W. Bush identified Iraq, Iran and North Korea as the "axis of evil" and strongly implied that their governments should be exterminated as sources of evil, it became the duty of these countries to prepare to defend themselves, their right to live and their right to be independent. After the US invasion of Iraq, who now can blame Iran and North Korea for thinking that they could be next? Their leaders would be traitors to their people if they did not prepare to defend their nations.

The United States is the first country to use the atomic bomb, killing more than 300,000 people in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. It has refused to proclaim that it would not be the first to use nuclear bombs. Under Bush, it has declared and asserted its "right" to undertake "regime change" in another country and to carry out "preventive war," which is no different from the naked aggression outlawed by international and moral laws.

By exploding a nuclear bomb, North Korea has already won the right to survive. The United States has agreed to a United Nations resolution rejecting force as a solution to the crisis. In the past, Russia and China had assured their own survival by developing nuclear bombs and their missile-delivery capacity, thus balancing America's power. Even the United Kingdom and France, long-time allies of the United States, have decided not to live comfortably under America's nuclear umbrella. Instead, they developed their own nuclear bombs to assure themselves of their independence and way of life. Cuba warded off another American invasion after the Bay of Pigs by allowing Russia under Khruschev to install missiles in Cuba. The missiles were pulled out only after President John Kennedy promised that the United States would never invade Cuba.

The only solution to the seemingly unstoppable nuclear threat is global nuclear disarmament proposed in the 1950s by world-renowned intellectuals led by Bertrand Russell and Robert Oppenheimer, one of the scientists responsible for developing the atomic bomb. If America is to be respected as a leader, it should junk its imperialist ambition and bullying posture and adopt the happy, humanist principle: live and let live.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO, mfalmario@yahoo.com

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

'Decisions for sale' at Ombudsman?

THE DECISION OF THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman clearing Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos et al. from any liability in the P1.3-billion poll automation deal voided by the Supreme Court is a vindication of my fight against graft and corruption.

As I have been saying over and over, there are the good, the bad and the ugly in that office.

It is needless to identify and classify who these people are, but the quality of their decisions more than explain why graft and corruption in this country has become so widespread.

At the risk of becoming a target of vindictiveness, I suspect that Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez herself is corrupt and that her deputy Orlando Casimiro is incompetent.

I pray they will charge me in court for whatever they will feel from this conclusion of mine so I can bring out evidence to prove they are tolerating "decisions for sale" syndicates in that office.

—LIGORIO G.M. NAVAL, 114-B Alima, Bacoor, Cavite

Quality education is within reach

I WISH TO COMMEND THE EDITorial titled "Top in its class" (PDI, 10/5/06), which cited Southern Leyte, a poor province, topping the National Achievement Tests administered last March, thus besting around 35,000 other schools in the country and richer provinces "in terms of producing students who learn very well the lessons they are taught in their classroom."

This is not sheer luck. Being a former district supervisor, I have been saying time and again that the quest for quality education can succeed only if all those concerned and involved in education processes—from the education secretary to regional directors, superintendents, general supervisors, principals to head teachers and teachers—will sincerely do their part in collaboration with the PTCAs and local provincial, regional and national officials and NGOs.

In the late '70s, I was assigned to a fourth-class municipality in one of the remote municipalities of Pangasinan. Not to brag, together with my co-workers, I was able to raise the standard of pupils' level of performance from 30 percent to 70 percent, just 5 percent below the passing grade.

How? Simple. I wasted no time in developing strategic intervention activities like the following:

- Preparation and administration of assessment/diagnostic test.
- Preparation of budgeted skills by grade level in the different subject areas.
- Preparation of practice exercise and story map in reading which is considered a tool subject.
- Graded conferences to thresh out common problems.
- Graded teaching demonstrations in different subject areas.
- Preparation of low-cost teaching materials.
- Rigid follow-up and follow-through supervision of teachers by school heads.
- Adoption of the "no read, no move policy."
- Adoption of "each one, teach one approach."
- Recognition of high-performing teachers and administrators.
- Coordination and linkages with NGOs, PTCAs and with barangay, municipal, provincial, national officials and other stakeholders in education.

Those activities contributed immensely to our efforts in improving the quality of education in my area of responsibility without too much fanfare.

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA, consultant, Municipality of Pozorrubio, Province of Pangasinan

One department of labor and education, why not?

MICHAEL TAN'S OCT. 11 COLUMN REMINDED me of an article I read about a government arm in Hong Kong, the equivalent of our labor and education departments rolled into one and chaired by one person. I thought the setup made perfect sense. As labor tracks down the jobs that are needed and the jobs that are not needed, the education system adjusts—directing what courses should be given priority (or quotas, perhaps).

(This adds to the many things in Hong Kong that impress me. Among others: cops on the beat don't carry guns—the sight of policemen deters crime more than the sight of guns; the crosswalks have "sound effects" warning pedestrians how many more seconds are left for them to cross the street.)

But in our country, it's more like a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing. We sorely lack highly skilled technical "graduates" but produce so many half-baked "business graduates," including lawyers. Now, we're into producing nurses and caregivers. The beloved countrymen of Jose Rizal, the global citizen, have been relegated to wiping wrinkled foreign asses for a living. This makes me want to cry.

—ROMEO LACAO, 293 D. Tuazon St., Quezon City

Marikina did it first

THE OCT. 8 ISSUE OF THE INQUIRER FEAtured the newly launched emergency response network of Makati City. It stated that "the facility is the first of its kind in Metro Manila that is funded by a local government."

I would like to point out that the government of Marikina City already has an emergency response network in operation since 1993. Dialing 161 provides us Marikina City residents with immediate, invaluable help in any emergency (including, but not limited to, crime, accidents, fire, medical needs, etc.).

The Marikina government has issued a standing order that a response to any emergency should be made no more than five minutes from receipt of call. However, the response usually arrives much earlier because of the efficient road system and traffic management in our city, as well as the considerable number of personnel and vehicles available 24/7.

—CORAZON P. VALDELLON, coraval@yahoo.com

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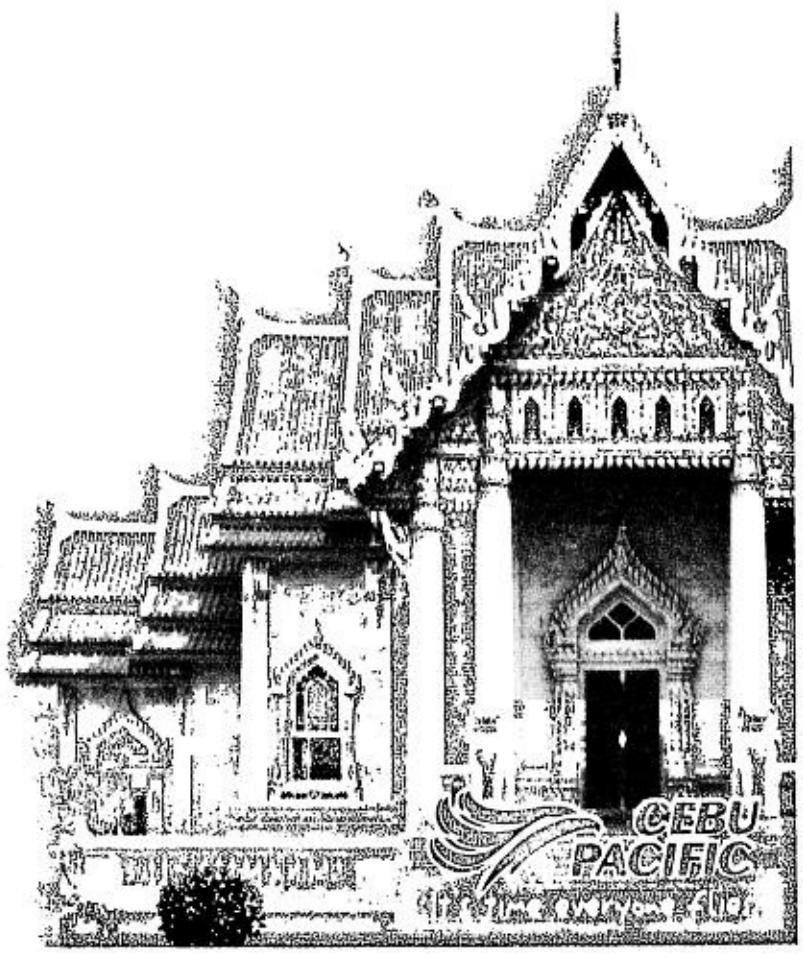

INQUIRER Visayas

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MassKara Festival goes global

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

THE MASSKARA FESTIVAL IS bringing out the best in the Negrenses' inherent artistry—proof that Negros Occidental is the "Paris of the Philippines."

"There is an explosion of art in the MassKara, created by villagers as well as international-caliber artists: masks, dances, sculptures, paintings, music. There is plenty of folk art being peddled around," festival director Eli Francis Tanjanlangit said.

Even the designs of the masks have evolved, he noted.

"Some of the masks no longer had Caucasian noses but those of Asians and Filipinos. I never felt so good about this job. Now, I thought, the MassKara is home," he said.

The three-day street dancing started yesterday and focuses on the "Masks of the World," which underscores the emergence of the capital, Bacolod City, in the global scene, Tanjanlangit said.

THE DESIGNS of the masks for the Masskara Festival in Bacolod have evolved through the years. PHOTOS BY PHILIP LOYOLA

Fight on!

The theme remains "Sige Lang ... Sige Na! Bacolod, Bato Kita [It's OK, It's all right! Through whatever adversity, Bacolod Fights On!]," but the "Masks of the World" is the creative anchor, he said.

"When our creative team sat down to plan for this festival, we came to the conclusion that with the entry of call centers and technology-driven projects, Bacolod is now emerging as an important dot in the international network of trade and commerce," Tanjanlangit said.

"In short, Bacolod has finally emerged as an active player in the Global Village."

This year's masks, booths and food represent the countries of the world.

"The MassKara Festival is our bridge to the world," Mayor Evelio Leonardia said. It has gained recognition not only in the Philippines but also in the rest of the world, he said.

"We are very happy that after 27 years, our MassKara Festival has become very international and that is why, in this year's celebration, different countries are represented by their citizens," Leonardia says.

Largest venue

What made the festival different this time is that it is the "biggest," Tanjanlangit said. It occupies the biggest site in terms of land area—2.7 hectares of the plaza and the 2.2-ha parking lot of the soon-to-open SM City in the reclaimed area, both connected by the famous Manokan country, he said.

Also lined up are an unprecedented number of live band performances, shows with Manila stars and street dance entries (11 for schools, 25 for barangays and at least 15 for the open category).

"I am very excited about what our entries will come up with. Our choreographers have told us they find the music very challenging. I know they are equal to the challenge, considering that last year, when we first introduced the concept of a creative anchor, which was Masks of Southeast Asia, they pulled it off beautifully," Tanjanlangit said.

Music for the street dancing is an original composition by Gerry Grey, one of the best musicians in Bacolod, he added.

"It incorporates the beats of the seven continents of the world—Indian, Arabic, Oriental, African and Latin—and climaxes with a Pinoy pop-rock segment woven together by a Visayan rap. It is at once global, but truly local. It is something we are very proud of," Tanjanlangit said.

"The visuals, the music and the events are shaped toward our creative framework, so it's going to be tighter, with the festival elements complementing each other."

Even the MassKara Queen beauty pageant had been reengineered to fit this framework.

"It had a reality TV component to show the stories of the candidates, and not just their faces and bodies," Tanjanlangit said.

He noted that the festival had brought in a big number of tourists. "Already, Bacolod's hotels are fully booked. And there is no other event for this month except the festival."

Festival partners

The organizers also worked with Negros-based foreigners to make the festival truly global, Tanjanlangit said.

"The International Friendship Club of Negros Island is our partner and it has helped a lot in putting a global color to the festival. Their members have joined us in the raising of the flags of nations to start the festival," he said.

The members of the International Friendship Club of Negros come from Netherlands, Indonesia, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, United States, United Kingdom, Korea, Canada and Austria.

"They have set up their own food kiosks at the festival site, serving authentic food from their countries," he said.

Another first was the international parade of masks and costumes—similar to the Santacruzan—but with the *sagala* carrying masks from different countries and wearing their national costumes, he said. The parade was held a week ago.

Tanjanlangit noted that the festival, in its own way, had social relevance to Bacolod.

"It's not as obvious as feeding the hungry and that kind of relevance. Although we have statistics to show the festival itself is helping stir the economy, create jobs and open economic opportunities," he said.

The festival provides an opportunity for prospective investors to see the city's business potential.

Community spirit

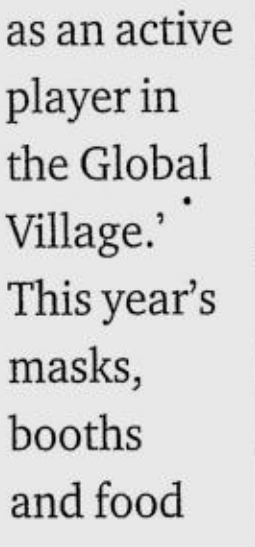
"You can just imagine how many of the multitudes who are coming here will think of settling down here with their businesses after experiencing the warmth of the city. But the deeper, more important social relevance here is how the MassKara is helping us find our own cultural identity as a people and how it is helping build communities," he said.

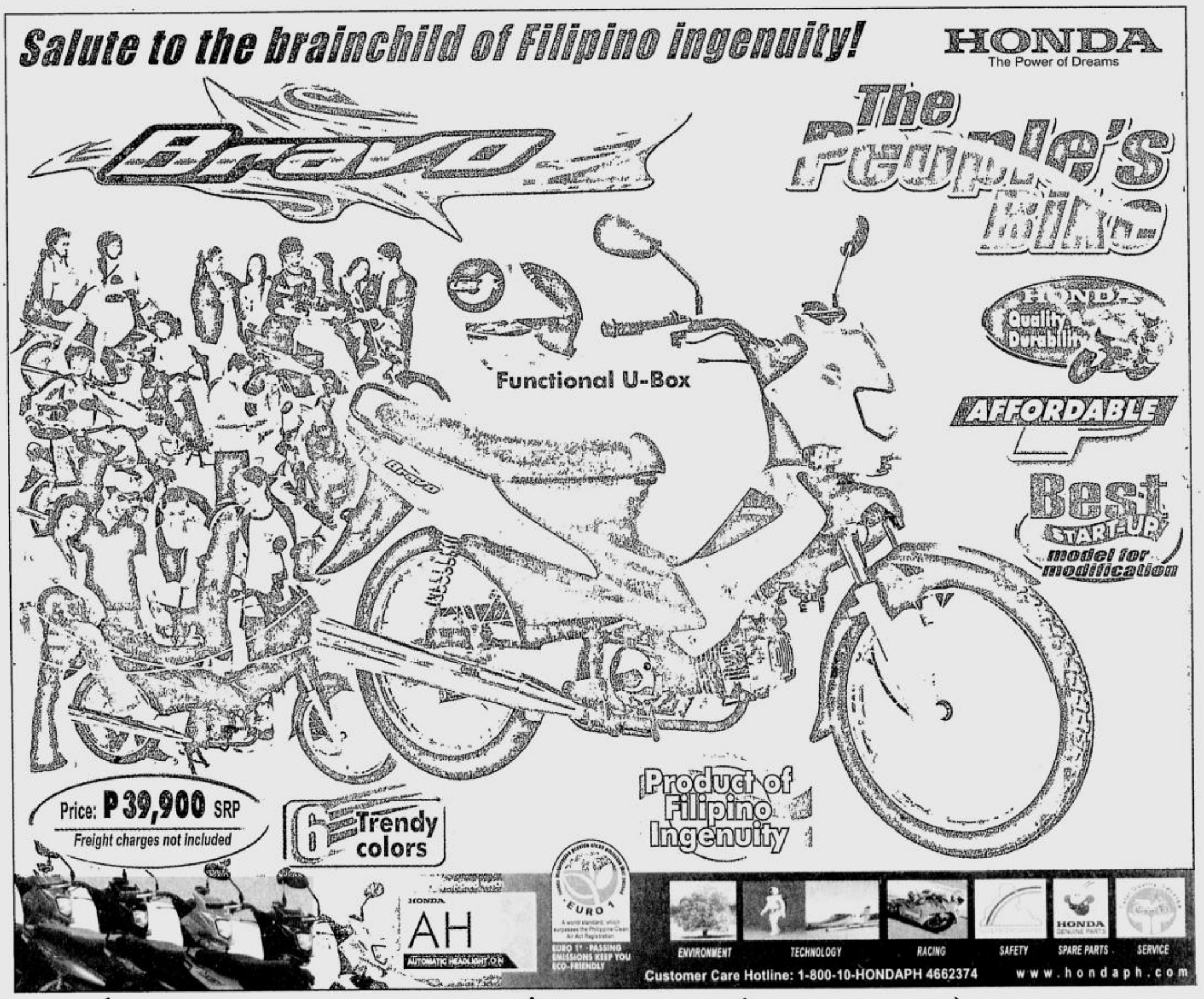
This is most evident in the barangays where people show support for their dance contingents.

They come together as a community to rally behind their entries, Tanjanlangit said.

"People contribute their time and resources. The sense of community in these villages is very palpable, especially during rehearsals when they watch and bring food for the dancers," he said.

'Bacolod has finally emerged as an active player in the Global Village.' This year's masks, booths and food represent the countries of the world





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4 kidnap victims escape Abu captors

ZAMBOANGA CITY—FOUR PERSONS WORKING on a US-funded project in Parang, Sulu, who were kidnapped on Tuesday, managed to escape after one of the suspects guarding them fell asleep, a military official said yesterday.

Maj. Joseph Alegado, commander of the 15th Light Armour Company, said engineers Romeo Rivera, Reynaldo Rubio and Larry Bautista and their driver Amarano Lapus (not Isidro Amarano as earlier reported) told the military they escaped on Thursday evening.

Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Sealana, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade, said the victims were recovered by soldiers in Sitio Beid in Barangay Saldang around 6:30 a.m. yesterday.

"It's good that soldiers were patrolling in the area, so they were immediately brought to the house of Parang Mayor Sugala Tingkahan," Sealana said.

Alegado said based on the account of the victims, they were held somewhere in Barangay Malaon, a village between the borders of Indanan and Parang towns.

Alegado said Rubio also told the military that during their captivity, their hands were tied.

He said the suspects belonged to an Abu Sayyaf faction headed by Itting Sailani, the main suspect in the shooting to death of former INQUIRER photo correspondent Gene Boyd Lumawag more than a year ago.

Quoting Rubio, Alegado said the bandits also seized the victims' automated teller machine (ATM) cards.

A contact of the kidnappers managed to withdraw P80,000 from Rubio's ATM card alone, he said.

Alegado also said the victims suffered physical abuse from the suspects.

"So when the guard fell asleep, the four inched their way out of the makeshift lair and untangled themselves. They then ran as fast as they could," Alegado said.

"We are happy that we were able to get them all safely without any money or ransom involved, construction will now resume in our province," Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong told the INQUIRER.

During the kidnapping, Matthew Lussenhop, information officer of the US Embassy in Manila, told the INQUIRER that the incident could delay projects.

Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

"THANK you God," were the first words uttered by Amarano Lapus, a driver who was kidnapped along with four of his co-workers in a USAID-funded project in Sulu. The kidnapping victims fled their captors and were found by the military. JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Peace adviser says MILF had no hand in bombings

By Franklin Caliguid, Jeoffrey Maitem and Aquiles Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

BUTUAN CITY—GOVERNMENT PEACE ADviser Jesus Dureza yesterday said Moro Islamic Liberation Front chair Murad Ebrahim had no hand in the deadly bombings in Central Mindanao.

"I'm confident personally that Murad was not involved in the bombings," Dureza told reporters during a visit here yesterday.

Branding the charges against Murad "unfortunate," Dureza said the MILF leader could not have ordered the bombings.

He said he had known him to be a man "dedicated" to the peaceful resolution of the decades-old Muslim rebellion in the south.

"The MILF leadership is very concerned about pursuing peace and they would not sow violence that would hurt the Bangsamoro community," Dureza said.

Dureza said Murad was "unduly" charged by the police in connection with the terror attacks in Central Mindanao that killed six people and injured two dozen others.

Supt. Marcelo Pintac, chief of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in North Cotabato, said the police have a witness against Murad.

"A witness told investigators that it was him (Murad) who ordered the conduct of bombings," Pintac said by phone from his office in Kidapawan City.

The INQUIRER was able to secure an affidavit executed by an Ambas Tokan pointing to Murad's participation in the bomb run.

Tokan, a who confessed he was an MILF rebel based in Camp Usman in President Roxas, North Cotabato, said he was present when MILF commander Kule Mamagong planned out the bombing attacks sometime in the first week of September.

Tokan claimed that Mamagong is a bomb expert, who trained under the Jemaah Islamiyah.

He said during the planning, Mamagong organized a team of JI-trained bomb experts including an alias Madz, a resident of Barangay Manarapan in Carmen town; alias Tatoh and alias Sammy, all residents of Barangay Matingaw in Midsayap, Cotabato; and alias Kier and alias Naz, of Barangay Kabuntalan, Midsayap, Cotabato.

Tokan said Afghan-trained Abdulbasit Usman alias Basit of the MILF special operations group, the prime suspect in the April 21, 2002 Fitmart bombing in General Santos City, was also present during the planning stage.

He said in the third week of September, the group left MILF Camp Usman and proceeded to their designated staging area.

He said it was at the safehouse of Kagui Abbas Bayan in Datu Paglas town, Maguindanao where he personally heard Mamagong giving out instructions to his men through mobile phones to execute the planned bomb attacks.

The same witness disclosed in details in his affidavit the exact time and how the bombings were carried out in Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat, Makilala town in Cotabato and Cotabato City.

ROUNDUP

4 kids die in Palawan blaze

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Four children of a Japanese businessman, aged 3 to 15, were killed while a neighbor was injured in a three-hour fire in Puerto Princesa early Friday morning. In a report, Palawan police director Senior Supt. Arsenio Pinacate said the victims, Rogeline Kuroki, 15, and her siblings Yoga, 13, Riyoko, 10 and Marian, 3, were sleeping in their rooms when the fire broke in their two-story home in Barangay Mangdaragat at around 1:40 a.m. Neighbor Danilo Eleazar suffered burns on his body while trying to rescue the children. Pinacate said the kids' father, identified only as a certain Mr. Kasogui, and their mother were not around when the incident happened. Eleven other houses were also razed by the fire which left 16 families homeless.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Abductors free village councilor

KAUSWAGAN, Lanao del Norte—Abductors believed to be members of the Tunda Force, a notorious kidnap group here, has released the barangay councilor of Tingin-tingin who was abducted on Oct. 13. Bonifacio Soronio, 68, was freed in the boundaries of Munai and Poona Piagapo towns on Tuesday afternoon. A police source said Soronio was released after negotiators paid the kidnappers "board and lodging fee" amounting to P50,000. Soronio said he was drinking with several other people inside his house when three armed suspects barged in. He said the gunmen took him and a drinking buddy at gunpoint. But the other victim, Richard Tampon, was released a few hours later. "I asked them to release him because he is only a coconut farmer and he has many children," Soronio said.

Richel V. Umel, Inquirer Mindanao

6 dead in Davao attack

DAVAO CITY—Six people, including two minors, were killed when unidentified gunmen peppered them with bullets in Tagum City on Saturday evening, the police said. Davao del Norte police chief Senior Supt. Jaime Morente said the victims were drinking in Visayan Village around 11 p.m. when they were shot using .45 cal. pistols and M-16 rifles. "We have some leads but we cannot divulge them yet," Morente said. It was learned that one of the victims was a police informant.

Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

Mayor suspended for 'nepotism'

COTABATO CITY—A town mayor of Maguindanao has been suspended for alleged "nepotism" and other administrative charges. Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan had issued a "90-day preventive suspension" on Oct. 9 against Datu Abdullah Sangki town Mayor Akmad Sangki for alleged "abuse of authority." Norie Unas, provincial administrator, said town Vice Mayor Ali Camino, has assumed the post as acting mayor. Unas declined to provide details of the charges, except that the decision to suspend the mayor "was a product of careful evaluation by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan and affirmed by the Office of the Provincial Governor." Sangki could not be reached for comment.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

3 workers sued over garbage

LIPA CITY—The Lipa City Prosecutors Office has filed charges with the court against three helpers of RR Enterprises, SM-Lipa's official garbage hauler, for violation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 or Republic Act No. 9003 after they failed to secure permits for dumping the mall's garbage at a vacant lot owned by the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) in Barangay Pusil here. The court has set the hearing on Nov. 14. Charged were Rodolfo Castillo, 30, truck driver, and helpers Gilbert Inahe, 23, and Arturo Pajiculay, 25. SM Lipa spokesperson Victor Magsino said the mall had terminated its contract with RR Enterprises after the incident.

Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Donation thru texts for 'Milenyo' victims

THE PHILIPPINE National Red Cross (PNRC) and Globe Telecom continue to be partners in the "Donate-A-Load" program to provide a convenient way for mobile phone users to send their donations to victims of Typhoon "Milenyo." PNRC Chair Richard J. Gordon said in a news release: "With this program, they can easily text in their donations, from as low as P5 to P300." To send donations, text RED <amount in 5/25/50/100/300> then send to 2899. Example: RED 100. The PNRC conducted relief operations on Thursday in typhoon-ravaged areas of Sorsogon and Albay. The PNRC will conduct the next round of relief distribution in Albay, Sorsogon and Quezon next week. For inquiries on how to help, call 527-0000 or visit www.redcross.org.ph.

Make-or-break decision for the Filipino nation

1 Our country is at a historic crossroads

After decades of false starts, wrong turns, and tragic failures, Filipinos have come to a historic crossroads. Poised to amend the 1987 Charter, the nation turns its eyes to the Supreme Court for a decision fraught with historical consequences —amid the tug-of-war between the forces of political reform and the defenders of the status quo.

2 An amendment, not a revision

Is the change in the political system being proposed an amendment or a revision?

To the framers of the country's first Constitution, *any change* in any provision of the Charter is an amendment. And this is how ordinary Filipinos understood the word to mean—when they voted to ratify each of our country's four Constitutions.

3 A clear and definitive agenda for change

In sum, the People's Initiative—as spearheaded by *Sigaw ng Bayan* and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)—has a definitive and limited agenda for change. And what is paramount is that the will of the sovereign people must be allowed to prevail.

To the 6.3 million Filipino voters who endorsed the People's Initiative, the issue before the Supreme Court is change—a new beginning for the nation.

4 Presidential democracy has failed our country

Over these last 70 years, we have tried to make presidential government work.

The American Founding Fathers—trying to establish democratic government in their vast and diverse society—*deliberately* designed their Constitution to prevent strong central government.

Transplanted bodily to our factionalized political system, the divided government produced by this elaborate system of checks and balances has all too often produced administrative gridlock.

Twice in the last 20 years, citizens have had to intervene forcibly in the political process to replace oppressive and corrupt Presidents—risking constitutional crises and even civil conflicts.

And, as we saw in 2000-2001, a ruling President can even defy diffuse public opinion with impunity—because the fixed presidential term also makes his impeachment tremendously difficult—short of a political upheaval.

5 Parliamentary governments bring prosperity

We cannot argue against the success of parliamentary systems in the overwhelming majority of European and Asian states.

In our own Southeast Asia, the most prosperous countries have got to where they are under parliamentary governments. We cannot dispute the record of the past 50 years. While the Philippines stagnated under its presidential politics, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand all flourished under parliamentary governments.

6 Now is the time to turn our country around

Our nation needs to turn a fresh page in its politics. The crucial issue is how to put the national interest above all else. That interest is to unify the nation, reform its politics, put the economy on the path to sustained growth, and reach the status of a Second-World society in 10 years.

Now is the propitious time to turn our country around, and Charter reform is our last hope of getting this done.

7 Let's send a message of hope to our people

We must assure the least among our people that politics can begin to work—not just for politicians—and not just for the rich—but for every citizen.

And we must reawaken the sense of pride in our country—and the civic responsibility—that lies in every Filipino's breast.

For there is nothing that we as a people can not do together—for as long as we have the faith, the will, and the heart.

PAID FOR BY AGUMAN PILIPINO INT'L

Benguet farms need 10-year pesticide rest to go organic

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE province will have to rest its farms for at least 10 years, if it was serious in going into organic production.

Provincial agriculturist Lolita Bentrez said local vegetable farms would have to remain fallow for at least a decade to flush out chemical residues from pesticides.

She said a fallow period of 10 years is only minimal because the presence of persistent organic pollutants (POP) found in some banned pesticides can take more than a decade to degrade.

Reports from the International Forum on Chemical Safety showed that some of the pesticide POPs include DDT, chlordane, aldrin, endrin, dieldrin, lindane, endosulfan and organotins.

From 1987 to 1989, major pesticide companies in the Philippines put in the market 20,100 tons of pesticides, the reports said.

Bentrez said making the land idle was the best way to prepare the soil for organic farming.

"Unless farmers go into hydroponics (using enriched water instead of soil), which is still very expensive," she said.

But as it turned out, chicken dung, the main organic fertilizer being used in Benguet, is also being adulterated.

The province's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, who took over as provincial officials for a day on Monday, passed a resolution to regulate the profitable chicken dung industry because of the presence of fake chicken dung.

Janice De-as, of the Atok National High School, introduced the resolution because fake chicken dung is fairly common in her town, one of the biggest temperate vegetable producers in the country.

De-as said chicken dung, which mostly comes from Taiwan and the commercial farms of Bulacan, was often adulterated with dirt, rice bran, lime and animal carcass.

But local agriculture officials said chicken dung is not considered organic fertilizer unless it has undergone proper decomposition as prescribed by Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture (PNSOA). This includes undergoing heat treatment of at least 60 degrees Centigrade to kill microbes.

Former Buguias Mayor Dominador Bay-an said the province's officials are intensifying its information dissemination among farmers to go into organic farming.

Bay-an said they planned to hold another organic farming congress next year to educate farmers about the benefits of this type of farming.

Bentrez said the first organic cooperative they helped form is the Benguet Organic Coffee Arabica Enterprises Inc., which now has 110 members.

She said organic coffee is easier to classify because most growers here still have their coffee shrubs in their backyards. Part of the province's help is to support the cooperative in post-harvest handling, she said. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

STREET DENIZENS

Psychotic vagrancy cases on the rise

BAGUIO CITY—HOW DO YOU discourage psychotic vagrants from roaming city streets? Doctors here said their families should be punished.

The Family Code of the Philippines makes families criminally liable for throwing mentally ill relatives out of their homes, said Dr. Gilda Wong, psychiatry department chief of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center.

Cities and urban centers in the provinces are confronting an increase in homeless vagrants who have varying degrees of mental illnesses, prompting government psychiatrists to suggest enforcing the Family Code in a Thursday briefing.

The Philippines is preparing for a World Health Organization projection that mental illnesses would rank second among the top disabilities in the world, according to the Philippine Mental Health Association (PMHA) here.

PMHA said depression has struck 45 percent of Filipino adolescents, citing a University of the Philippines survey in 2005.

But apart from clinical observations that depression has been leading to mental disturbance among the youth, experts have failed to back their contention with solid evidence because of government's inability to fund surveys, Wong said.

For more than 15 years, PMHA had advocated a clear government policy on mental health management, but psychology always took a back seat to economics because subsequent administrations "have focused on raising capital," she said.

"We are always a last priority," she said.

The most tangible evidence of an increase in the number of the mentally impaired are the street vagrants, who appear to be psychotic, PMHA said.

Psychotic vagrants have surfaced in the last 10 years around major cities in the provinces, the group's local officials said.

The government's response to these vagrants is to treat them as social work cases because of the tight budget, said Janet Calado, PMHA Baguio executive manager.

Social workers are supposed to identify the vagrants' relatives in order to establish a medical history, and train their families in medical procedures necessary to treating or containing the psychologically unfit.

"But sometimes we can't get the vagrants to tell us their names, so we can't locate their families. What happens is a never ending cycle of cleaning them up, and then releasing them to the city where they were picked up and returned to us," Calado said.

"We thought of putting up their pictures in the newspapers to try to locate their families, but we were constrained by the medical code protecting patients' privacy," she said.

Despite the problem, the city government has yet to put up a subsidized treatment facility for vagrants nor has it issued yearly allocations for their medicine needs, Wong said.

She said police and social workers are asked to bring vagrants for psychological testing once they start exhibiting "unusual behavior." *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

INQUIRER MASCOT
NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON
A copy of the INQUIRER mascot, Guyito, painted by artist Wilfredo Offemaria, is turned over to the Philippine Science High School in Goa, Camarines Sur, one of the school recipients of 20 Guyitos.

Ilocos Norte areas at bird flu risk tagged

LAOAG CITY—THE PROVINCIAL veterinary office (PVO) has identified at least 18 potential risk areas in Ilocos Norte where migratory birds possibly carrying the bird flu virus could flock with the onset of the cold months.

Dr. Loida Chee, provincial veterinarian, said Ilocos Norte, which is geographically near China, is traditionally the entry and take-off points of migratory birds flocking to Philippine swamps.

The PVO has started taking blood and fecal samples from different bird species around the sites, among which are the Paoay Lake near the "Malacañang of the North," Saud beach in Pagudpud town, Manayon Swamp in Bangui town, Billoca fish farm in Batac town and ricelands in San Nicolas town.

"We gathered more than 1,000 samples [during the first quarter this year] and all yielded negative results," Chee said.

The PVO will conduct another sampling in November in time for an information drive in critical areas around the province.

"Collaborative efforts by the national and local governments have sealed off the country from the avian influenza in the past years. However, the threat remains," Chee said.

She asked residents to immediately report any cases of sudden death among fowls so confirmatory tests could be carried out and, in the process, rule out any incident of bird flu virus.

Health officials have adopted an approach to detect the presence of the bird illness, which includes confirmatory tests and surveillance work.

Chee said a monitoring team is also in place at the Laoag International Airport and the Currimao seaport to prevent any attempts of smuggling exotic animals afflicted with the H5N1 (avian influenza) virus. *Cristina Arzadon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Bishop's report: 'Jueteng' in Bulacan, Ecija

DAGUPAN CITY—WHILE "jueteng" operations have stopped in Pangasinan and in Bicol, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said the illegal numbers game is still being played in other provinces.

"Even Director General Oscar Calderon (Philippine National Police chief) has openly admitted that jueteng in the country is not yet totally wiped out. I agree with him. But I also agree that jueteng has diminished much," Cruz, national chair of the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Sugal, told the INQUIRER.

He said information gathered by his group showed that jueteng operations persist in Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Laguna.

While he was happy with the "diminishing jueteng," Cruz said the game was deliberately being stopped to introduce its "twin," the small town lottery, under the cloak of legality.

"STL is jueteng's twin, except that it is legal. Jueteng has 37 numbers [while] STL has 38. STL will use the jueteng collectors and will also use *papelitos* (strips of paper where bets are recorded)," he said.

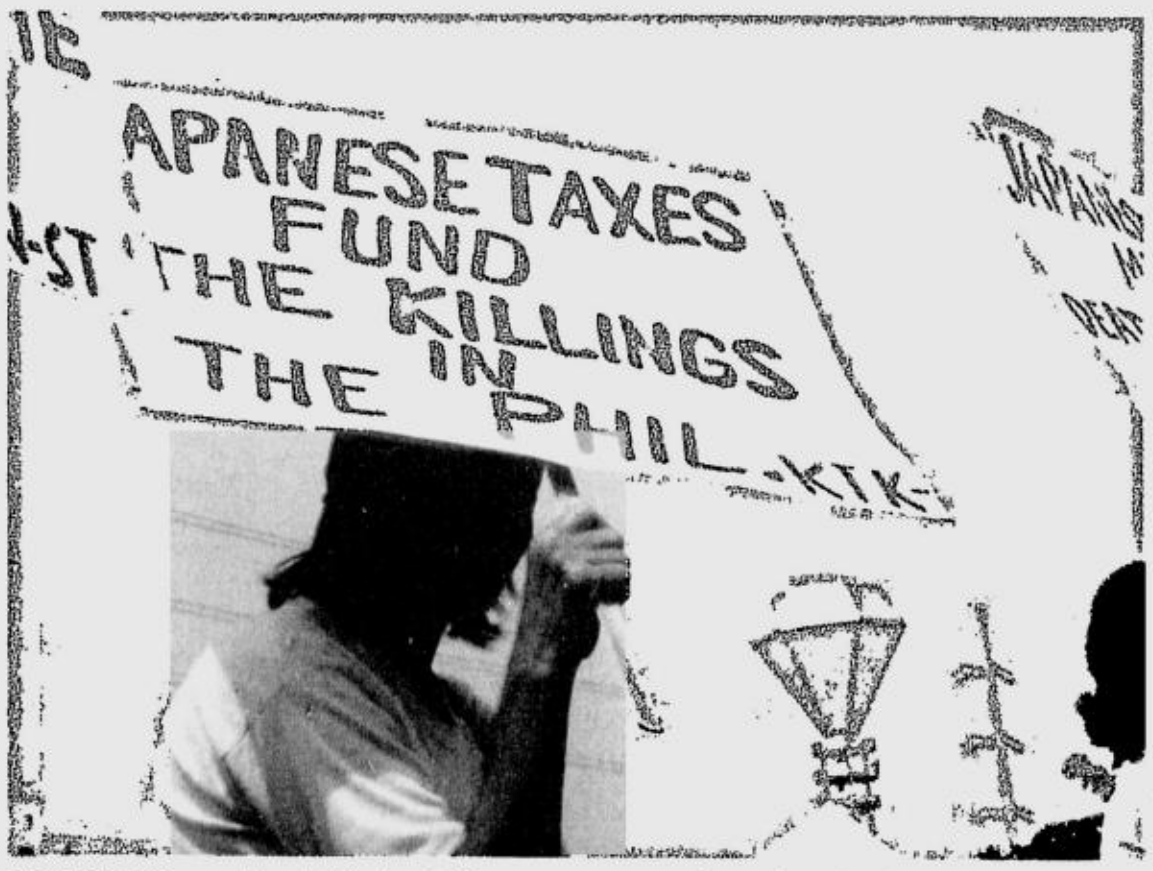
"It is also commonly known that [some] companies [that have] secured franchises for STL are dummy corporations of a good number of jueteng lords," he added.

Cruz said STL would not be attractive to operators because they would retain only 48 percent of the collected bet money. He said 42 percent are for local governments, the police, PCSO and collectors and taxes.

"If there will be no cheating, it is impossible for operators to continue operating STL," he said.

"Thus, operators will [be forced to operate] 'bookies' or will play a parallel game, with 100 percent of bet collections totally at their disposal," he said. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Farmers, militants pin blame on foreign aid for farm evictions



PROTESTERS carry placards blaming the Japanese government for projects that they said caused the displacement of thousands of farmers and led to the killings of militants protesting it. The number of protesters was estimated to be 400.
NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—AT LEAST 400 farmers and urban poor group members from Southern Tagalog demonstrated in front of the Japan Embassy Thursday to condemn the foreign governments' funding of what they called "deceptive development projects that kill and displace peasants and urban poor in the region."

They said Project Calabarzon, largely funded by Japan and Korea, has already destroyed thousands of homes and communities in its 17 years of implementation.

Orly Marcellana, secretary general of Katipunan ng Samahang Magbubukid sa Tinog Katagalugan (Kasama-TK), said Project Calabarzon will cause more damage now that many projects under its banner are underway in the region.

The peasants carried a large mock "Notice to the Public" stating that the Japanese and Korean development aids were killing the people of Southern Tagalog.

Railroad projects

"Many of us have been killed because we are justly struggling for our rights to our homes and livelihood, the most recent of which is the killing of Millares, a member of Samahan ng mga Magkakapitbahay sa Tabing Riles in San Pablo," Marcellana said.

The SMTR is an urban poor organization struggling against demolitions due to the Philippine National Railways Modernization and Rehabilitation Program, particularly the SouthRail Project which will link Laguna to Quezon.

Rogel Galit, spokesperson of Kamagsasaka- Ka (Kalipunan ng mga Magbubukid sa Kabite), cited the Metro-Tagaytay-Taal Development Project (MTTDP) in Cavite as one of the main projects of the Arroyo administration under the concept of mega regions. He said thousands of fishermen in at least 64 barangays, spanning municipalities from Maragondon to Noveleta, stand to lose their homes and livelihood due to the construction of Coastal Road 2.

"Aside from land use conversion, the replacement of major products per municipality will cause economic dislocation of farmers. In Alfonso town alone, around 11,000 farmers relying on planting coffee will be displaced if the municipality starts converting the farms into flower plantations."

Side issues

The peasants from Southern Tagalog, joined by delegations from Bicol region, also marched to the Makati City Hall to condemn the "Arroyo government's harassment of the political opposition such as Mayor Jejomar Binay."

The protesters then marched to the Department of National Defense office to condemn the escalating political killings in the region before converging with protesters from Central Luzon and supporters from the National Capital Region in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform office in Quezon City where they held vigil.

Farmers' groups from the provinces in Southern Tagalog have been marking Peasant Week activities since Monday. *Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Just married: Baby Arenas' favorite baby

From page A1
nators did it exactly his way. No media horde cramped their simple style.

"Please, let them savor this moment," a wedding assistant reminded the INQUIRER.

Moment of political color

The only "political" color came from the mother of the groom, the irrepressible Arenas, who was overheard telling President Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia about the alleged leader of the February failed "withdrawal of support" Marine Col. Ariel Querubin.

"Do you know why the soldiers are getting killed in Mindanao? It's because Ariel is no longer there," Ms Arenas was overheard telling her honored guests.

The President, who led the power-packed sponsors, just smiled.

Ramos connection

A sprinkling of personalities who walked the corridors of Malacañang when Fidel V. Ramos was President served to remind how influential Arenas was back then. Which sparked running reports throughout the Ramos tenure about the father of Arenas' youngest son.

Born in 1978, he lived abroad since he was 11 "to protect him from gossip in Manila," his mother once told the INQUIRER.

Is he or isn't he?

During the 2004 presidential campaign, ex-President Joseph Estrada lauded his best friend, the opposition standard-bearer, Fernando Poe Jr., for being "candid and honest" for publicly acknowledging his son by a former starlet. "Not unlike former President Fidel Ramos," said Estrada, " who denied having a son by (Rosemarie) Arenas."

Arenas retorted in a phone interview with the INQUIRER that "things like this should not be discussed in public, it's like you're flaunting it ... Let the public talk. I won't kiss and tell.

During the Ramos' confirmation hearing as defense secretary in 1988, he was asked pointblank about siring a son not by his wife. Ramos answered in the negative.

Faces from the past

At the wedding were Ramos administration stalwarts like former Presidential Security Group (PSG) commander Lt. Gen. (retired) Jose Calimlim and former Malacañang spokesperson Annabelle Abaya.

Her ally from the Ramos era, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, was at the wedding reception at the Manila Mandarin Hotel.

Controversial lawyer Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza and his erstwhile partner, National Defense Secretary Avelino "Nonong" Cruz, were among the principal sponsors. Another ex-partner, Justice Antonio Carpio, was not around.

Known as the Firm, the Cruz, Carpio and Villaraza law firm was the favored law office by the Ramos administration. So it is, too, with President Arroyo.

Principal sponsors

Aside from Ms Arroyo, the principal sponsors included Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr., Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Ramon Ang, Carlos Ejercito, Edmund Gaisano, Justice Manuel Lazaro, Gina de Venecia, Rep. Amelita Villarosa, Teresita Sy-Coson, Salvacion Villaraza, Judy Roxas-Araneta, Edna Lhuillier, Gina Lopez, Zenaida Tantoco and Joy Campos.

Other sponsors Arlene de Castro, wife of Vice President Noli de Castro, Senate President Manuel Villar, Antonio Villar Jr., Rep. Antonio Floirendo Jr. and Albert Aguirre could not make it.

Shrieks from nannies

The only celebrity who elicited shrieks from the nannies of the flower girls was TV show host Dominic Ochoa, brother of the bride.

Ms Arenas was resplendent in an off-white beaded gown by Aureo Alonzo, who also did the gowns of the bridal entourage.

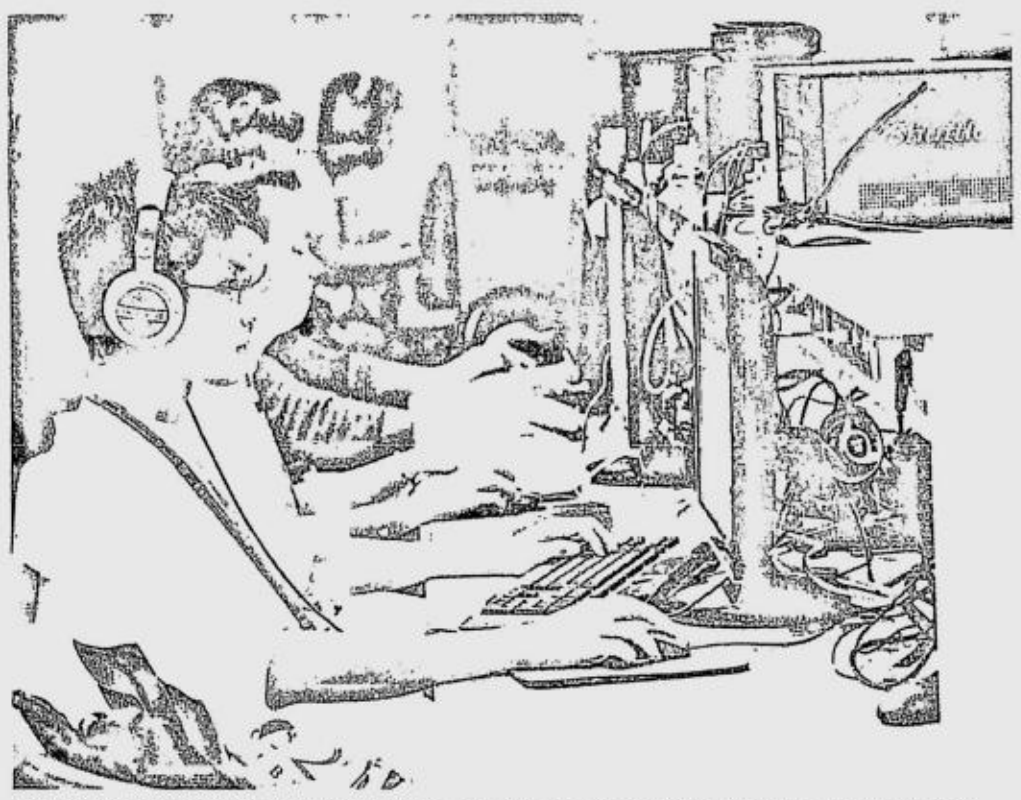
Her daughter, Rachel, wore a fuchsia gown also by Aureo Alonzo.

"This is my Mom's. I just borrowed it," Rachel told the INQUIRER.

Doting grandma

Just before midnight, the wealthy socialite and famous party hostess turned into a doting grandma. She scooped up Tania Beatriz, the 3-year-old daughter of Bing and Kristine. The tired flower girl wilted in her Lola's arms.

The only other political tidbit: Opposition Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella left early to avoid being seen by President Arroyo, he would say in jest on his way out. Actually, he was rushing to the airport to fetch his son.



THE 2006 WORLD CYBER GAMES in Monza are ongoing until Oct. 22. The northern Italy city near Milan is famous for its Formula I racing tradition. AP

Filipina is lone girl ...

From page A1
the Philippines, managed to make it to the World Cyber Games finals, her long, dark hair marking her out in a crowd of men.

"We have some female players but they are not good enough for the finals," said Petra Weber, an Austrian-born referee who oversees WarCraft, a strategy game. "Girls seem to be less interested in computers. They have other interests, like horseback riding or hanging out with their friends."

Beats Hollywood revenues

The world gaming industry, whose estimated annual $25-billion turnover beats Hollywood box office revenues, is still a male-dominated world with few girls playing at top level.

The battlegrounds range from tame, sporty games inspired by football and motor racing to real-time strategy games such as Dawn of War, where players exterminate rival races in a Tolkien-like setting, or StarCraft, in which different alien species vie for planetary domination.

"The majority of players are viewed as somewhat nerdy. Many are young and often very shy," said Andre Zilio, 23, a Brazilian silver medalist at last year's Singapore Cyber Olympics who started playing Pac-Man at the age of 5.

"When I was 16, I was also a complete computer geek. Now I study economics and am more interested in finance than games."

Transfixed

As the first contests start, dozens of youngsters appear transfixed among rows of computers, their eyes glued to the screens.

Nobody utters a word. Only the rhythmic tapping of fingertips on keyboard, mouse and joystick breaks a somewhat eerie silence.

"They are not allowed to shout, they are not allowed to stand up as they could distract other players," said Weber. "If they do so, I give them a penalty."

But in the corner where fast-paced shooting game Counter Strike is being played it's a completely different picture as players shout to team mates trying to eliminate enemies.

"Emotions run high. I used to be in the national swimming team, but here I am more nervous," said Davide Caleggi, a 22-year-old Italian who studies engineering.

Playing for fun, funds

The under-30s at the World Cyber Games are not just competing for fun—winners get a slice of the $435,000 prize.

Training requires several hours of practice a day and players admit online games can be addictive. Early this year, a 28-year-old South Korean died of heart failure after playing StarCraft for 50 hours at an Internet café.

Yet, with such large rewards in mind, many think it is worth investing their full time in the game.

The best players, especially in South Korea, are national heroes, feted like pop stars, and many Asian players receive sponsorships that allow them to play all the time.

After 25 ...

"I am a full-time programmer and I get a monthly salary of 3,000 yuan ($379.4) from the club that sponsors me," says Youchau Su, 23, a Chinese finalist.

"It's good if they pay you. You can spend more time playing.

But the younger ones are in any case faster and when you hit 25, it's time to escape," said StarCraft competitor Chuanhai Zhuang. *Reuters*

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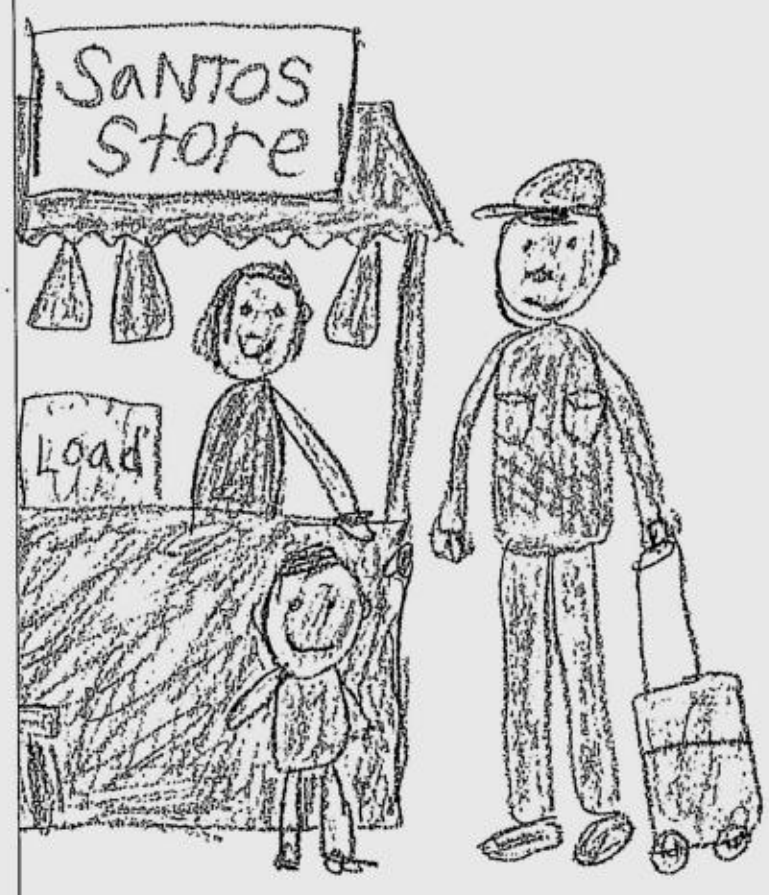

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More sports stories on A25 to A28

Late Sports

Seigle powers Beermen

By Musong Castillo

ANTIPOLO CITY—SAN MIGUEL welcomed two new prominent faces last night, but it was an old one who returned from sick bay to lead the Beermen to their first victory and pronounce boldly that this is still his team.

After sitting out two games because of back spasms and still appearing to be in less-than-perfect health, Danny Seigle tortured Alaska all night to lead San Miguel to an 81-71 triumph in the PBA Philippine Cup at the Ynares Center.

"A healthy Danny Seigle was a big factor, definitely," said coach Chot Reyes. "He was still not in great game shape because he hasn't been able to practice, but he helped us a lot tonight."

The 6-foot-7 Seigle scored 15 of his 25 points in the third quarter when the Beermen wrested complete control, and it was all San Miguel from there as the Aces trailed by twin digits and never got closer than six the rest of the way.

San Miguel snapped a three-game skid with the win, and it came on the night when Reyes first suited up Rommel Adducul and Lordy Tugade and gave the former Barangay Ginebra center little time on the floor to break him in.

"But their presence alone was a big confidence booster," Reyes explained. "I just need a few more days to get everyone up to speed."

Seigle, a former Rookie of the Year winner, was on the floor for 34 minutes, shooting just 7-of-19 from the field but making all but two of 12 free throws. He topped his offense with seven rebounds and three assists.

Alaska was actually easy picking with Mike Cortez sidelined because of a bruised knee.

But Aces still put up a decent fight before losing for the third straight time and dropping to the cellar alone at 1-4.

Dondon Hontiveros accounted for 12 points, rookie Gabby Espinas had 11 and Christian Calaguio 10 for San Miguel. Willie Miller scattered 30 points for Alaska.

Meanwhile, Talk 'N Text forced Coca-Cola to two crucial scoring droughts in the second half for a 78-71 victory over the Tigers in the first game.

After trailing for a large chunk of the first half, the Phone Pals opened up a 10-point lead by holding the Tigers scoreless for a total time of of 4:59.

The Scores:

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 78—Cardona 20, Taulava 18, Alapag 15, Ritualo 10, Allado 5, Carey 4, Belano 4, Pablo 2, Fran 2.

COCA-COLA 71—Peek 16, Pacana 13, Salangsang 12, Yeo 11, Miranda 8, Antonio 7, Gavino 2, Misolas 2, Raneses 0.

Quarters: 18-all, 35-41, 55-52, 78-71.

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 81—Seigle 25, Hontiveros 12, Espinas 11, Calaguio 10, Tenorio 6, Gonzales 5, Wilson 4, Adducul 4, Pena 4, Racela 0.

ALASKA 71—Miller 30, Belasco 10, Dela Cruz 8, Laure 6, Luanzon 5, Thoss 4, Cariaso 4, Aban 2, Juinio 2, Franco 0.

Quarters: 18-22, 38-33, 63-55, 81-71

Realtors test Giants today

GAME TODAY (*Pacoy Ortega Gym*)
5 p.m.—Purefoods vs Sta. Lucia

AN UPSET HERE, A SURPRISE RESULT THERE and guess who's suddenly all alone at the top?

Sta. Lucia Realty, a team marked by seasons of underachievement, is starting to look like the team to beat in the Talk 'N Text PBA Philippine Cup and will look to add to its collection of scalps when it takes on struggling defending champion Purefoods today.

The Realtors and the Giants clash in a lone out-of-town match today at the Pacoy Ortega gym in San Fernando, La Union with Sta. Lucia hoping to keep intact the league's last clean slate.

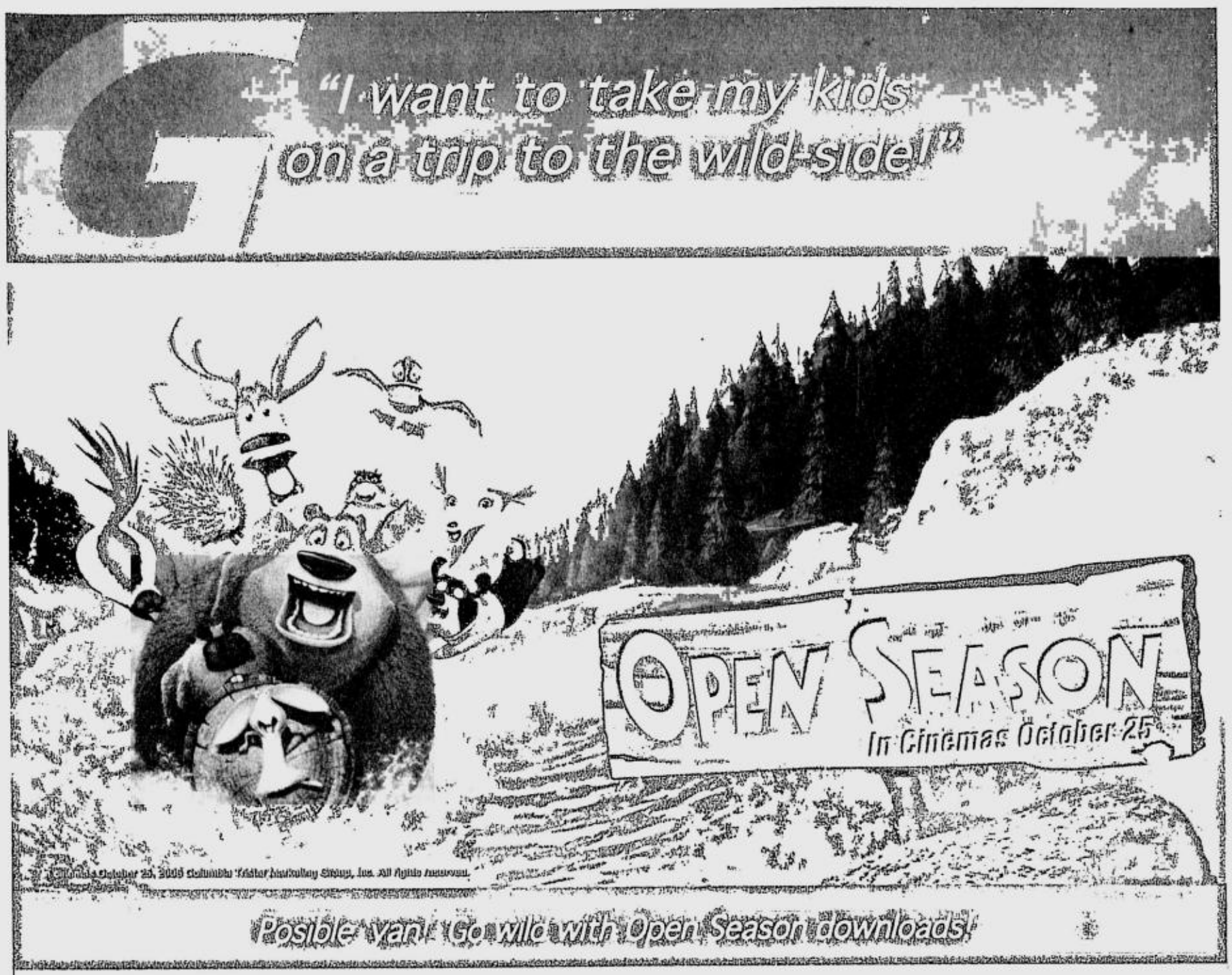
And it is going for a fourth straight victory against a Purefoods squad that can't seem to find its bearings in this tournament.

But Sta. Lucia coach Alfranci Chua is not taking any chances.

"Purefoods is the defending champion and I expect them to come up with a lot of pride," Chua said.

Air21, San Miguel and Alaska have all lost to Sta. Lucia, which has gotten superb performances from the likes of Dennis Espino, Kelly Williams and Alex Cabagnot to rack up three straight triumphs.

Purefoods, on the other hand, has won just once in four outings. *Francis Ochoa*



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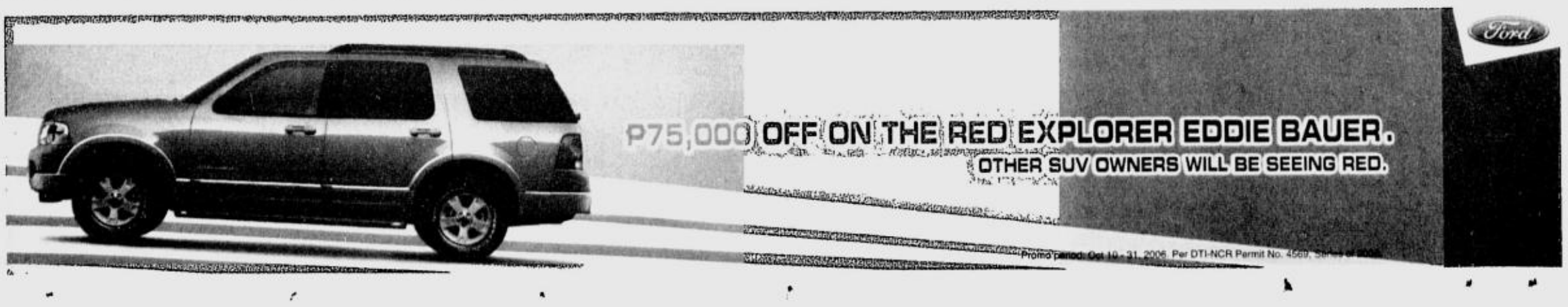

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Mall guards take refresher course

Police strengthen security measures

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE EASTERN POLICE DISTRICT GAVE A short "refresher lecture" to about 500 employees of a large mall at the usually busy Ortigas Center to strengthen security measures.

District director Chief Supt. Luizo Ticman told the INQUIRER they also met with security officers in the business district to coordinate inspection trips.

At the same time, the Philippine National Police denied claims contained in text messages and e-mail claiming a member of the Abu Sayyaf was arrested and had revealed plans to attack a large mall in Mandaluyong City this month. Director Gen. Oscar Calderon said there was no reason to worry as the messages could just be part of a "disinformation" campaign.

Though Ticman said the messages were untrue, he said he ordered more policemen to be deployed in the area.

He said three teams of 10 policemen each were doing "visibility" patrols in the business district.

The management of the mall also hired additional security guards while nearby malls posted bomb-sniffing dogs at the entrances.

Mandaluyong City Police chief Supt. Ericson Velasquez told the INQUIRER they had included mall security guards in their security plan.

But he said this was not because of the text and e-mail messages but partly because of the series of bombings in Mindanao, "which could spill over to Metro Manila."

"Security deployment has been reviewed with the mall manager and some adjustments were made," Velasquez said.

Ticman said the heightened security was also part of police preparations for the expected mall rush on All Saints' Day and the coming holiday season.

The Eastern Police district has jurisdiction over the cities of Marikina, Pasig and Mandaluyong, and the town of San Juan.

NO QUALMS
A motorist blithely ignores a No Left Turn sign along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City, while the traffic aide on duty seems oblivious about the violation.
RAFFY LERMA

P2M lost in two Metro fires

By Jocelyn R. Uy
and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SOME 60 FAMILIES WERE LEFT HOMELESS and about P1-million worth of property were destroyed in a two-hour fire that hit a crowded neighborhood in Parañaque City yesterday morning.

In Marikina City, another fire destroyed more than P1-million worth of property, but no one was injured.

Ofelia Unite was in her house in Silverio Compound, Purok 1, Barangay San Isidro, Parañaque, when she saw smoke coming from an adjacent house, said arson investigator SFO4 Arturo Castro.

The house where the fire started was reportedly owned by Cezar and Elizabeth Cabaging, Castro added.

Neighbors said the couple could have been cooking on an open-flame and left it unattended.

"We could not find them after the fire," Castro told the INQUIRER.

A resident fell from a roof while trying to help put out the fire but he was not hurt. Castro said no other casualty was reported.

However, almost all affected residents were not able to save their belongings.

"The roads leading to the origin of the fire were too narrow, about four meters wide. We were able to reach the affected area by going over the roofs," Castro said.

Help

Meanwhile, Mayor Florencio Bernabe, who immediately arrived at the fire scene, promised to bring relief goods for the homeless families. He said the City Engineer's Office could also provide scrap materials to help the victims rebuild their homes.

In Marikina, the fire at around noon yesterday razed an old two-story house and kept firefighters busy for an hour, SFO1 Noel Guiyab told the INQUIRER.

He said the fire began at 11:35 a.m. inside a house owned by Bienvenido Tamayo on Oval Street in Paliparan, Barangay Sto. Niño.

The family was out of the house when the fire started. Only a helper, who was doing the laundry, was in the compound. She said she heard minor explosions and saw the dining area in the ground floor on fire.

Controlled

Guiyab said the fire, which started near the stairs leading to the upper floor, quickly spread because the old house was mostly made of wood. Fire walls prevented the fire from spreading.

Responding firefighters managed to save the owner's car. The fire was put under control at 12:30 p.m.

Guiyab said the fire could have been triggered by old electrical connections, although he said an investigation was still ongoing to determine its cause.

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Sulit	7 days	30.00	27.00	24.00
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	7 days	50.00	45.00	40.00
	30 days	150.00	135.00	120.00

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Farewell, Tom

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

MY LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME with the passing away of Tomas "Tom" del Castillo, my lawyer, confidant and mentor.

No other guy of similar qualities will pass my way again.

Tom was a lawyer of the INQUIRER who defended most of the libel cases filed against its publisher, editors, reporters and columnists. I got to see him more than the other INQUIRER columnists since I had the biggest number of libel cases.

Tom and I became very close after he went with me all the way to the provincial jail in Balanga, Bataan, in 1988. A judge in Dinalupihan, Bataan, sentenced me to two weeks in jail after I refused tell him the source of an item in this column that he thought put him in a bad light. Tom saw to it that I was not going to be harmed while in jail. Imagine an *abogado de campanilla* personally accompanying his client to jail when he could have assigned a junior law partner to do that!

The soft-spoken graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law won all my libel cases by the force of his argument. He was not included in the Asia Pacific Legal 500, a list of outstanding lawyers and law firms of Asia, for nothing.

I remember the time he practically played around with the lawyer of a complainant who filed a libel case against me in 1995. When I complimented him for his brilliance, he said it was not that the other lawyer was *bobo* (dumb) but that he came well prepared. Tom was a very humble man.

One time I punched a cab driver in the nose after he nearly ran over me a couple of years ago on a street in Makati. I got Tom to defend me in the slight physical injuries case the driver filed against me. He told me to settle with the driver and pay him a big amount. Tom said I needed to learn my lesson the hard way. I've since learned to control my temper.

Self-control was one of Tom's guiding principles. He once confided to me he took a fancy to a pretty young female lawyer who had mutual feelings toward him. I told him to have an affair with the woman. He said, "Are you crazy? I love Ruby (his wife) more than I love that girl!" I wish I had Tom's self-control.

His love for Ruby and their children extended to the downtrodden. He defended poor people I brought to him who were unjustly accused in the courts. Tom gave his legal services for free.

The most celebrated case he handled for a poor litigant concerned an auto mechanic on whom some Quezon City cops "planted" shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride). The cops entered the wrong house during a raid meant for a pot session. The mechanic resisted and was shot. Tom handled his defense and got him acquitted. We at the defunct "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" television program wanted to give credit to Tom, but he begged that his name not be mentioned.

Two years ago, Tom came to my office. He said he had terminal cancer. He told it to me matter-of-factly, as if he was citing a provision in a law book. How could he be so brave, I told myself. Farewell, Tom! Till we meet again in another life.

'PCU protesters only want salary hike'

By Tina G. Santos

TEACHERS AND STAFFERS OF THE Philippine Christian University on Taft Avenue, Manila, are holding protest actions to press their demand for a salary increase, according to a school official.

The official, who requested anonymity, said: "Dr. Oscar Suarez, our president, apparently did not recommend to the board of trustees the salary increase the teachers and the staff had asked. Maybe, to get even, they now want him out."

But protesters denied the claim and said their "community action" was aimed at voicing their displeasure over Suarez's management.

"*Malayo sa* salary increase *ang* issue *na pinaglalaban namin*," said Ellen Naluz, spokesperson of the Alliance of PCU Unions. She said they would agree to not receiving an increase "as long as he (Suarez) steps down from his post."

The INQUIRER had been trying to get Suarez's side, but a member of his staff said he was in a meeting.

Over a hundred teachers and staffers of the PCU, including union officers of the university branch in Dasmariñas, Cavite, staged a walkout and held a vigil at the Manila campus yesterday.

But Naluz said classes were not disrupted as professors were allowed to teach.

Protesters are demanding the resignation of Suarez who has been accused of anomalies involving PCU funds.

They claimed that Suarez, who has been president of both Taft Avenue and Dasmariñas, Cavite, campuses for five years now, failed "to show sincere concern to protect the interests of the university."

They said Suarez had failed to improve the financial condition of the PCU, which is owned and managed by two Protestant churches, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and the United Methodist Church.

"The university's cash flow in 2000 was P265 million; now it's down to P72 million," Naluz said.

Suarez, she said, failed to present documents showing how the fund was disbursed.

Among other things, they alleged that, in 2004, Suarez made an unauthorized loan of P32 million "for the university's developmental projects," using the PCU's trust fund as collateral.

The loan, however, was allegedly diverted by Suarez to Terra Nova Trading, a company then registered in the name of his wife, Marlene.

The transaction, they stressed, "clearly showed a conflict of interest."

Corruption charges were filed Tuesday against Suarez and other PCU board members in the Manila regional trial court.

The case was filed by PCU corporate member Bishop Emerito Nacpil and board members Anacleto Fontanilla and Sofronio Larcia.

METROBRIEFS

Cases dismissed

AFTER having been cited in news reports that he faced 16 cases in the Office of the Ombudsman for graft and grave misconduct charges, Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime Fresnedi made it clear yesterday that 11 of these had already been dismissed and he was just waiting for the resolution of five cases. To prove how much the business community and Muntinlupa folk trusted him, he said the local government was given the "2006 Most Business-Friendly City" award in the National Capital Region by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "This is the third time we received this award," he said.

Jocelyn R. Uy

PWU seminar

THE INNER Mind Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Women's University will hold a Neuro Linguistic Programming seminar at 8 a.m. today at the President's Office, Taft Avenue, Manila. The seminar is the maiden program of the PWU Center for Human Sciences under Jaime Licauco and Freddie Reyes, deputy director.

Atienza denies pro-GMA stance gives him 'protection'

By Leila B. Salaverria

MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA SAID HIS perceived closeness to the administration had nothing to do with the absence of a suspension order against him despite cases he faces in the Office of the Ombudsman.

Earlier, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, a leader of the United Opposition, was ordered suspended on charges that he hired host employees.

The Court of Appeals had issued a temporary restraining order against the suspension.

Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad, who is also allied with the opposition, remains suspended for alleged anomalous garbage collection and disposal contracts.

Different cases

Atienza said cases faced by several Metro Manila mayors were different from his own.

"What I know is my cases are related to my attempts to put in order the city of Manila," he told a forum yesterday.

The mayor said two of the 12 cases against him were related to his decision to buy lower-priced multicabs and to eliminate middlemen in the purchase of medicine for the Ospital ng Maynila.

He denied that his ties with President Macapagal-Arroyo prevented his suspension from office, saying people close to the President had not been spared in the past.

"It's not a question of your closeness with leaders. The cases had been studied to know the proper course of action to take. Every case is different from the other," he said.

More careful

Atienza said the suspension would make mayors more careful in carrying out their responsibilities so they would not violate any law.

He said there was nothing wrong with mayors facing charges, if their actions were aboveboard and were done for the benefit of the city or municipality.

The mayor said it was sometimes inevitable that an official's action would be questioned by people affected by his programs.

US sees Baghdad strategy a failure

BAGHDAD—THE US MILITARY SAID ON Thursday it was reviewing strategy in Baghdad, where US reinforcements have failed to halt spiraling violence, and expressed grave concern about mounting troop deaths.

The battle for control of Baghdad, which US officials say will decide Iraq's future, and a spate of attacks across Iraq on Thursday that killed at least 38 people piled pressure on US President George W. Bush before the November mid-term election.

In Washington, a senior administration official said the latest Baghdad security strategy had not achieved its goal and the top US commander in Iraq, Gen. George Casey, was expected to present a revised plan within weeks.

The US military will be looking at the "adequacy" of Iraqi forces deployed in Baghdad, whether to change the balance of Iraqi police and soldiers in the city, and the role of US troops there, the official said.

Bush, whose Republicans are battling to retain control of the US Congress, said he saw a possible parallel in the rise in violence in Iraq and the 1968 communist Tet offensive, which triggered a drop in Americans' support for the Vietnam War.

Later at a Republican fund-raising event, Bush said: "There is one thing we will not do. We will not pull out our troops from Iraq before the terrorists are defeated." A spokesperson said Casey had ordered the review of strategy in Baghdad, widely seen as crucial to bringing enough stability to Iraq to allow US troops to eventually leave the country.

US Maj. Gen. William Caldwell said the number of attacks targeting security forces in Baghdad had risen since US troops launched a crackdown designed to end sectarian violence killing dozens of people every day.

US commanders have blamed the rise in US casualties in Baghdad on more perilous patrolling by US forces trying to defeat sectarian militias and Sunni Arab insurgents opposed to the Shiite-led government.

Caldwell said violence across the country had risen by at least 20 percent in the first three weeks of the holy month of Ramadan, compared to the previous three weeks.

He said civilian casualty levels in Baghdad stabilized in October, but added: "Operation Together Forward has made a difference in the focus areas but it has not met our overall expectations of sustaining a reduction in ... violence.

"We are working very closely with the government of Iraq to determine how best to refocus our efforts," he said.

Lt. Col. Christopher Garver said Casey ordered the review last week. "US casualties are a grave concern but that is not driving the review," Garver told Reuters.

The US death toll rose on Thursday to 73 for October, which could become one of the deadliest months for US forces since a massive offensive in Falluja two years ago.

In Mosul, six suicide bombers including one in a fuel truck blew themselves up near police stations and US patrols, and insurgents fired mortar bombs and clashed with police in violence that killed at least 20 and wounded dozens.

More than 2,780 US troops have been killed since the March 2003 invasion to topple Saddam Hussein. *Reuters*

OUSTED Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein holds a copy of the Koran during his trial on charges of genocide in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone Oct. 18. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

Ozone hole biggest on record, US reports

WASHINGTON—This year's ozone hole over Antarctica is bigger and deeper than any other on record, US scientists reported on Thursday. The ozone layer shields Earth from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays, and the layer thins out over the South Pole each year, primarily because human-made compounds release ozone-eating chlorine and bromine gases into the stratosphere. "From Sept. 21 to 30, the average area of the ozone hole was the largest ever observed, at 10.6 million square miles (27.4 sq km)," said Paul Newman of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center outside Washington. If the stratospheric weather conditions had been normal, the ozone hole would be expected to reach a size of about 8.9 million to 9.3 million square miles (23 million to 24 million sq km), about the surface area of North America, NASA said in a statement. *Reuters*

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers bomb way to peace talks

COLOMBO—Tamil rebels agreed to talk peace after killing 250 people in a week of suicide bombings and other attacks as Sri Lanka's aid donors push both sides to resurrect a truce, diplomats said Friday. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told peace broker Norway on Thursday that they will attend Oct. 28-29 negotiations in Switzerland, but only because the international community wanted them to. Diplomats involved in the peace process had not expected the LTTE to return to the negotiating table from a position of weakness after they suffered territorial losses and serious casualties since April. However, the Tigers overturned the situation, first resisting a major government offensive and killing at least 133 soldiers on Oct. 11 on the northern Jaffna peninsula. They then killed 115 people, mostly sailors, in the island's north-east on Monday in their bloodiest suicide bombing, followed two days later with an audacious suicide attack on Sri Lanka's southern naval base at the port of Galle. *AFP*

Genocide survivors urge EU sanctions over Darfur

HELSINKI—Survivors of genocide, from the Nazi Holocaust to Rwanda, called on Friday for European Union sanctions to stop the Darfur conflict, saying so far the EU has done almost nothing to stop mass killing in western Sudan. "I didn't survive a Nazi concentration camp to sit back while genocide is repeated," said Holocaust survivor Martin Stern, one of 120 people to sign an open letter to EU states. "Europe can play a leading role in stopping this slaughter but it has to act now," he added. Sudan is resisting international pressure to allow 20,000 UN troops to replace African Union peacekeepers in Darfur, where 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million displaced in a 3-year-old conflict. The underfunded and badly equipped AU mission expires on Dec. 31 but so far there is no agreement on what will happen after that date. In the meantime, violence in Darfur is worsening with government troops and allied militias, as well as rebels, blamed for new attacks. *AP*

Priest in Malta says he had relationship with Foley

MIAMI—A PRIEST LIVING IN MALTA has acknowledged having an intimate relationship with Mark Foley when he worked at the former congressman's childhood church in the 1960s.

But the Palm Beach County state attorney's office and the Archdiocese of Miami would not confirm Thursday whether he was the priest Foley recently accused of molesting him.

The Rev. Anthony Mercieca, 69, told The Herald-Tribune in Sarasota, Fla., that he had forged a friendship with Foley after arriving at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Lake Worth in 1966. Foley was 12 or 13 years old, and Mercieca, who had moved from Brazil, was 29 or 30.

Mercieca told of skinny-dipping with the young Foley, lounging naked in saunas with him and massaging him while the boy was unclothed. He said that once, while on tranquilizers, he might have done something that Foley found inappropriate but that he could not recall the details.

"I wish him well," Mercieca told The Herald-Tribune from his home in Gozo, a Maltese island about 60 miles south of Sicily. "Let bygones be bygones."

In an interview on Thursday with WPTV, an NBC affiliate in West Palm Beach, Mercieca said he had not done anything "dirty," but that there had been intimate contact.

"Once maybe I touched him," he told the television station. "It's not something you call, I mean, rape or penetration or anything like that, you know. We were just fondling."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mercieca said the Herald-Tribune report was "exaggerated," but that the newspaper stood by its story.

The Diocese of Gozo, whose web site lists Mercieca as a priest, said in a statement that it had only just learned of "the allegations" and had asked the Archdiocese of Miami for more information. Bishop Mario Grech of Gozo would start investigating on Friday, the statement said.

Foley, 52, resigned from Congress on Sept. 29 after the release of sexually suggestive electronic messages he had sent to teenage congressional pages. Soon after, his lawyer in West Palm Beach announced that he had gone into treatment for alcoholism, was gay and had been molested by a clergyman as a teenager.

According to The Herald-Tribune, Mercieca was born in Gozo and still has family there. Consiglia Grech, a neighbor of Mercieca's, said by phone that she could not believe he had done anything untoward. *NYT*

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Il, front right, poses with China's State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan, front left, for a group picture in Pyongyang Thursday, Oct. 19. AP

China, United States urge N. Korea to return to talks

BEIJING—CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES pressed North Korea on Friday to return to talks on ending its nuclear arms program and called for full implementation of UN sanctions imposed on the country after its Oct. 9 atomic test.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, speaking at a news conference in Beijing with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, appealed for calm and a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

Rice's crisis trip to east Asia has been overshadowed by speculation that communist North Korea might be about to detonate a second nuclear device.

"We hope all relevant parties can maintain cool-headedness, adopt a prudent and responsible attitude and stick to the general direction of a peaceful resolution through dialogue," Li said.

"We are willing to strengthen consultations and cooperation with all parties to break the stalemate and restart the six-party talks as soon as possible," he added.

The six-party talks, which bring together the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and host China, stalled last November after Washington imposed restrictions on Pyongyang's external financing.

Rice's visit came one day after Beijing, Pyongyang's biggest backer, sent a high-level delegation to North Korea to deliver what US officials said was a "very strong" message.

The top US diplomat is expected to get a readout of that mission led by former foreign minister Tang Jiaxuan, who held talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong-il.

South Korea's Chosun Ilbo newspaper quoted an unidentified diplomatic source in Beijing as saying Kim told Tang that Pyongyang would return to stalled six-party talks on ending its nuclear programs if Washington lifts financial sanctions.

Kim also expressed regret to Tang about the difficult position in which the nuclear test had placed Beijing, it said.

US officials tried to lower expectations about the outcome of the meeting and said they did not expect any major announcement such as a return to the six-party talks. *Reuters*

Panama to vote on major overhaul of canal

PANAMA CITY—THE PANAMA Canal is set for a major overhaul if voters Sunday approve a $5.25 billion plan to widen the strategic waterway to accommodate modern mega-ships.

Proponents say the canal will reach capacity in 2012 and that its expansion is critical in the face of competition from other maritime routes.

The government says the work would be financed by a hike in tolls, worth $1.2 billion in 2005.

Polls predict a victory of more than 70 percent in favor of the expansion in Sunday's referendum.

"Between Hong Kong and the east coast of the United States, ships take three days longer via the Suez Canal. But if the lines lengthen at the entrances to the Panama Canal, shipowners will seek an alternative," Rodolfo Sabonge, the director of planning for the Panama Canal Authority said.

It takes just eight to ten hours to cross the Isthmus of Panama, the tiny waist of the American continent, via the 80-km canal. But the actual average time, including the wait, is 26 hours.

Promoters of the project also point out that modern shipping relies more and more on mega-ships too large for the canal, considered a marvel of engineering when it was completed 92 years ago.

The proposed third lane, parallel to the existing two, would accommodate massive post-Panamax vessels 366 meters in length, 49 meters wide and with a 15-meter draft.

Today, such ships—too wide and too long for the Panama Canal—must go all the way round Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America to connect ports on the east and west coasts of the American continent.

Panamian authorities say the project will generate 7,000 direct jobs, and 35,000 indirect jobs. Work would begin late next year and is projected for completion in 2014.

The canal's current capacity of 14,000 ships per year would increase to 17,700, they say.

Built by the Americans between 1904 and 1914 after an initial failed attempt by the French, the canal is the driving force of Panama's economy. Eighty percent of Panama's gross domestic product, $16 billion in 2005, is linked to canal activity.

Detractors say the government has underestimated the cost of the project by some three billion dollars. They cite damage to the environment from the expansion and argue that the government should focus instead on fighting poverty, which touches 40 percent of Panama's three million people.

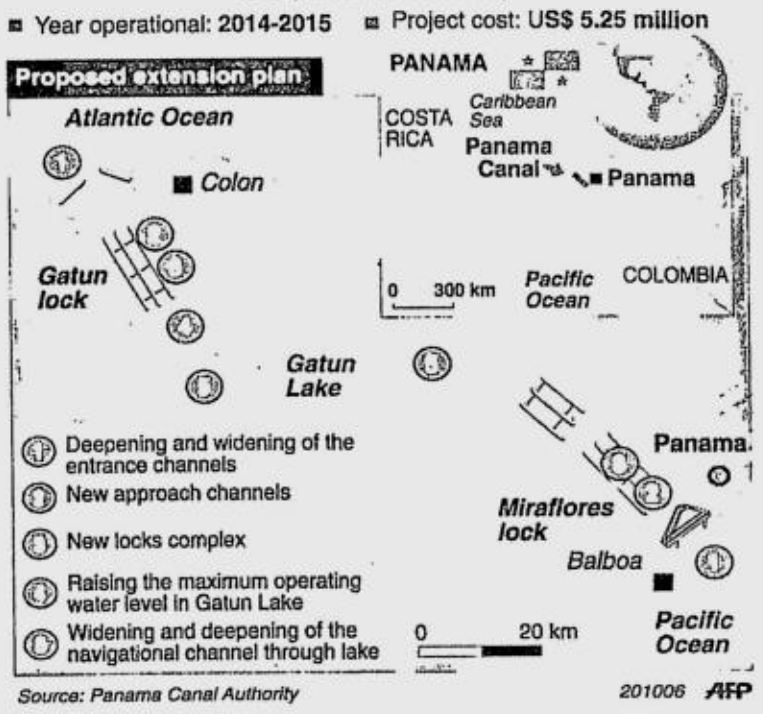
"It's a project that meets the needs of Panama's oligarchy, which will pocket hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes," said Miguel Bernal, a law professor at the University of Panama.

"The no vote is silent. People are afraid," he said, lamenting that the no camp lacked funds to argue its case while the government has spent lavishly to promote the project in a publicity blitz.

If the canal is expanded, post-Panamax container ships and vehicle carriers would be able to use it but it would remain too narrow for American aircraft carriers and oil supertankers. *AFP*

The Panamanian government's proposal to expand the waterway

■ Year operational: **2014-2015** ■ Project cost: **US$ 5.25 million**



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■ **Pimentel** bags gold in world wushu meet/A27

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■ **Cardinals** triumph in Game 7 /A28

PBA story in Late Sports on A20

PACQUIAO: "He'll knock out Morales"

ARUM: An ace up his sleeve

MORALES: Doubly mean vs Pacman

Pacman a puzzle, Morales a delight

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

NOW A LIVING RIDDLE TO BOXING PROMOTERS, Manny Pacquiao could mount a greater edge over Erik Morales if he proves similarly elusive inside the ring in Las Vegas on Nov. 18.

After acquiring a brand new Mercedes Benz SL 550—one that packs 383 horsepower in a 5.5-liter V8 engine in California for about $105,000 (P5.36 million)—Pacquiao has allowed Top Rank boss Bob Arum to brag that Oscar dela Hoya of Golden Boy Promotions has not wholly acquired the Pacman.

Arum on Thursday claimed that Pacquiao's succeeding fights after the Nov. 18 Grand Finale encounter with Morales will still be under the Top Rank banner.

"At the end of the day, I am convinced that win or lose, Manny Pacquiao's next fight and fights after that will be under the banner of Top Rank, that's all I can say," said Arum in an interview with Boxingtalk's Greg Leon.

Arum refused to elaborate.

"I can't say how, why, what and so forth, that's all I can say," added the Harvard University lawyer-turned-premier promoter of world boxing.

Earlier, Pacquiao had signed up a seven-fight deal with De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions, which carried with it a $300,000 signing bonus and assurances of mega-fights against Marco Antonio Barrera and other big-name fighters.

Feeling triumphant over the latest twist in the promotional tug-of-war over Pacquiao, Arum also announced that Morales will be a true delight to his fans when he does his WBC-mandated 30-day weigh-in in Mexico City today.

Morales will take part at a news conference at the Melia Hotel, and then step on the scale to prove to the media and the world that he will be doubly mean for his fight with Pacquiao.

Meanwhile, trainer Freddie Roach has also announced that Pacquiao is now down to 135 lbs, and has been sparring three times a week at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles, against Vicente Escobedo and Charlie Hanshaw.

"I expect him to knock Morales out in the late rounds again," Roach told Fightfan.com. "He'll break him down and knock him out.

"Morales had never been knocked out in his life and thought it was impossible. I think it will come easier this time."

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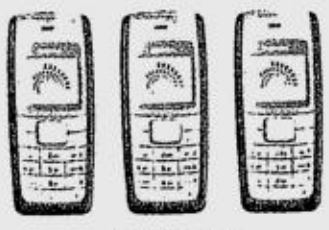

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Lions hungry for more success; Warriors ready

By Jasmine W. Payo

A MONTH AFTER BAGGING THE NCAA CROWN, THE SAN BEDA Red Lions are on the hunt for another collegiate title.

"This will be good for our school," said coach Koy Banal after the Lions secured a Finals berth in the Collegiate Champions League.

GAMES SUNDAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
2 p.m.—JRU vs Mapua (Battle for 3rd)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs UE (Finals)

But this time, it's a chance for the Lions to test their mettle against an unfamiliar enemy as they battle the University of the East Warriors in the title showdown tomorrow.

The Lions are favored to claim their second varsity title in two months. But Banal admits that, even if the Warriors settled only for third place in the UAAP, it hardly eases the pressure.

Especially since this is the Warriors' last chance for basketball glory in a year they were denied in the UAAP.

"UE has a good basketball program," said Banal. "And it's hard to go up against any team with a good program."

Banal points out that the Lions twice bowed to the Warriors in another developmental league early this year before lording over the NCAA.

"They've beaten us, so we're definitely practicing in the next two days," said Banal.

UE coach Dindo Pumaren, though, believes their previous encounters shouldn't be an indicator.

"Both our lineups weren't complete then, so it's hard to gauge it in our past games," said Pumaren. "We'll be facing a tougher San Beda. All the other favorites in this league have dropped out and San Beda is the only champion team left."

The Lions have been banking on a good combination of veterans and rookies led by Yousif Aljamal, Pong Escobal and Nigerian Sam Ekwe.

In the early rounds, the Lions ditched Cebu titlist University of Visayas and wildcard bets National Bulldogs and Jose Rizal Bombers.

The Warriors, fueled by team stars Mark Borboran and Marcy Arellano, UCAA champion Emilio Aguinaldo Generals, NCAA runner-up Philippine Christian Dolphins and semifinalist Mapua Cardinals.

JOHN Paul Escobal remains one of SBC's biggest outside threats. ERIK AMAZAS

Mamiit & Co. out to end Asiad drought

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE MOOD IS UPBEAT AMONG THE country's tennis bets in the Doha Asian Games.

The six-man squad, led by Fil-Americans Cecil Mamiit and Eric Taino, are either training or competing abroad in preparation for the December Games where they are expected to gain higher seedings, according to a tennis official.

Mamiit, the world No. 181, should be in the Top 8 of the men's singles, said Philippine Tennis Association executive vice-president Ajay Pathak.

"We have a good feeling about our campaign in the Asian Games," said Pathak. "Our players are in top condition. The goal is to make the quarterfinals and after that anything can happen."

Fresh off his $50,000 Challenger title win in New Orleans, Mamiit will be at the forefront of the team which is embarking on a mission to end the country's 40-year medal drought.

He and Taino are now in the thick of competitions in the United States, said Pathak. Six-foot PJ Tierro is also seeing action in US tournaments.

Johnny Arcilla, who completes the RP Davis Cup team along with Mamiit, Taino (ranked 340th) and Tierro, is honing his skills in local meets; while Denise Dy and Czarina Mae Arevalo are competing in and out of the country.

The last time the Philippines won an Asiad medal was in Bangkok in 1966, when the country bagged two silvers courtesy of Patricia Yngayo and Desideria Ampon in women's doubles and Federico Deyro and Yngayo in mixed doubles.

Turning hustlers into heroes

COMMENTARY

By Percy D. Della

NEVER MIND THAT IN HARSHer, more conservative times, they endured a derogatory depiction: Pool sharks.

Not only have these hardy souls, once derisively described as hustlers, turned a new leaf. They have turned into sports heroes.

And on the strength of their foreign conquests, for flag, country and of course, the almighty buck, they have turned their wizardry into wealth.

Waiting for the opportunity to prosper in dimly-lit, smoke-filled pool halls is now a thing of the past.

Many, if not most of them have become millionaires under the glare of television lights from five-star hotels and sports palaces around the globe.

They've got the world on a cue, got the pool and billiards universe's number.

They know the game inside and out. Too bad they excel in a non-Olympic sport.

Or Efren Reyes, Francisco Bustamante, Alex Pagulayan, Amang Parica, Santos Sambajon, Dennis Orcollo, Leonardo Andam, and a whole colony of artists—pool artists that is, could have produced our first Olympic gold a good number of years ago.

Credit for parlaying pejorative to prestige is heaped on Aristeo Puyat, he of the same sports gentry that almost gave Filipinos their first Olympic gold 42 years ago.

Aristeo's uncle, Gene, was amateur boxing's honcho, godfather and acknowledged benefactor to the man who almost pulled the feat—the featherweight Anthony Villanueva in the Tokyo Olympics of 1964.

Filipino pool professionals started scattering to the four winds after the 1987 Southeast Asian Games in Jakarta, where Reyes and Parica first appeared from the shadows to smother the opposition. Their feat ignited the formation, with Puyat's backing of a Filipino foreign legion—that has since dominated world pool championships.

Pool aficionados of every stripe have since wrapped themselves with the fresh exhilaration of Pinoy pool players and their swashbuckling style of play, says Ernie Fajardo, president of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines

Fans will not soon forget the sight of Reyes playing for the audience with a generous dose of "English"—lacking in American and European players. The term refers to the degree of difficulty of a shot—as deftly performed to the satisfaction of the gallery.

Not only do they have the world celebrating their bravura performances and the bonanza that comes with these.

Our cue artists have become the stars of a billiards TV network that competes with poker channels to attract millions of viewers in the United States and beyond. TV revenues result in bigger purses.

News of their exploits and new riches have changed society's perception. The people once frowned upon by wary parents have elevated the game.

From the street corner hangout of idle men and out-of-school youths has emerged a middle—and upper-class— activity played on handcrafted Philippine mahogany tables with fancy Belgian-made Aramith balls in homes in the leafier parts of town, corporate headquarters and huge malls.

The wizards are feted by governors, city mayors, congressmen and senators. Even Malacañang grudgingly recognizes them as idols of the masses, not as erstwhile hustlers when they return from abroad.

Their sport, once taboo, is now part of countrywide sports development programs.

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ATC	1 THX WORLD TRADE CENTER GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THE GUARDIAN	
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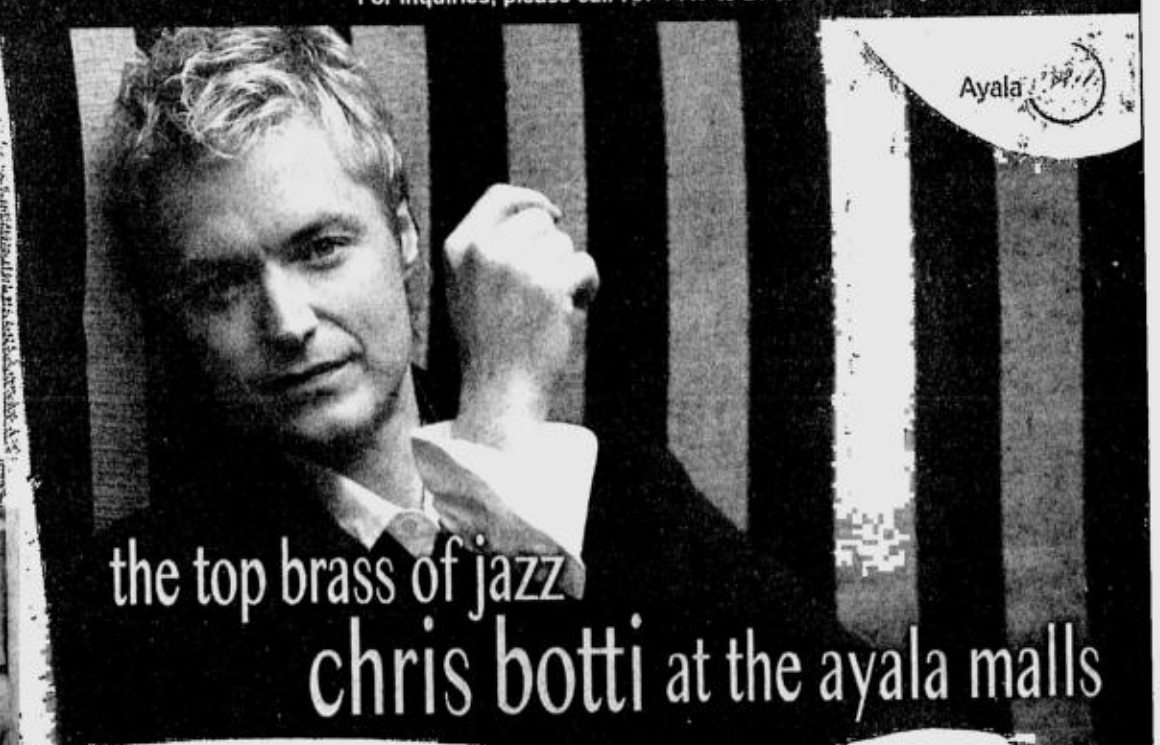

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AYALA CENTER CEBU

PIMENTEL: My sacrifices paid off.

Pimentel bags gold in world tilt

FILIPINO LESTER PIMENTEL DISHED out a near-flawless performance and won the gold medal in the nanquan (southern style) category in the Second World Traditional Wushu Championships in Zhengzhou, China.

The 32-year-old Pimentel tallied 8.80 points to best 57 other participants, including the favored Chinese bet who received 8.73. The Canadian entry finished third with 8.71.

"I'm glad that all my sacrifices paid off," said Pimentel. "I won because of my technical superiority over other countries. I just hope my teammates will also win."

The other members of the team—Garry Cua, Rica Bitara and Maureen Liang— will see action Thursday.

"They also have good chances of winning," said Pimentel, who came out of semi-retirement last year to lead wushu's 11-gold romp in the Manila Southeast Asian Games.

"My victory, I hope, will be a big boost to my fellow wushu athletes who will compete in the coming Asian Games."

Pimentel's performance caught the fancy of European officials, some of whom offered him a coaching job.

"They even wanted me to conduct seminars in their respective countries," said Pimentel.

King Booker labels local fans subjects

KING Booker (left), Queen Sharmell (center) and Michelle McCool. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Francis Ochoa

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR KING BOOKER TO WEAR OUT HIS WELCOME with local wrestling fans.

After referring to those at the press conference for the World Wrestling Entertainment Smackdown tour as his "loyal subjects," he labeled them "lowly peasants" after a journalist fielded a question about wrestling diva Michelle McCool during the press conference that was held at the Gateway Mall.

It's all part of an act, though, as everybody knows.

But it is an act that will spice up a two-day extravaganza that will highlight some of the biggest name in sports entertainment.

Not that King Booker needed to put on an act to get the crowd on Oct. 21 and 22 at the Araneta Coliseum to go against him.

The fact that he plays the role of arch-nemesis to Filipino fan favorite Batista already assures him of a worked-up and "hostile" crowd at the Big Dome in the two-day event.

And the fact that Batista has something personal against the guy who won 36 different wrestling titles already assures that Filipino fans will be against King Booker on the twin playdates.

"There are a lot of words I can say about King Booker, none of them printable," Batista told the INQUIRER in an earlier separate interview.

Booker, though, decided to add to the expected ire of the audience, claiming he was "insulted that [Batista] was introduced last," which he took as an affront to his "royalty."

And, in a reference to the Thrilla in Manila held here in 1975, King Booker vowed to "get the Gorilla in Manila" when the two-day wrestling show comes up.

There's just one problem.

The two are not scheduled to meet.

King Booker takes on Bobby Lashley for the world heavyweight title while Batista teams up with Chris Benoit in a tag-team match against Finlay with Li'l Bastard and Chavo Guerrero.

SPORTSWATCH

SJC Bugbugan fires off today

SAN JUAN COLISEUM AND SAGUPAAN COMPLEXOR 3000 PRESENT at noon today the Bugbugan 5-stag derby which will feature 150 fights. Hosts Louie Cua and Dori Du said the guaranteed prize is P2.5 million. Cua added that aside from his co-members from the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines and Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association, also seeing action are derbyists from Davao, Cebu, Ilo-ilo, Mandaue, Bicol, Negros Occidental, Cagayan de Oro and Zamboanga.

PCAP stagfest 7th round up

SELECTED BATTLESTAGS WILL BE FIELDED ANEW TODAY WHEN THE seventh leg of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-stag derby series unwraps at Makati Coliseum with more than 100 fights. Action in the event backed by Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace starts at 2 p.m. According to promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co, 15 guest participants who are listed in the National Bakbakan 9-stag event, headed by last year's solo champ Al Garcia will compete.

RP girls 26 shots off pace

STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA—THE PHILippines improved to a four-over 148 but fell farther back of new leader South Africa halfway through the World Amateur Golf Team Championships at the Stellenbosch Golf Club Thursday.

Cyna Rodriguez settled for a 73 and fellow Junior World champion Dottie Ardina produced a 75 as the youthful RP squad climbed three notches to 28th place, 26 shots off the South Africans.

Debbie de Villa failed to count for the second straight day with an 84.

Rodriguez went two-under after 16 holes with birdies on Nos. 12 and 16 but dropped three shots in the last two holes.

The 12-year-old Ardina, who had a 76 in the first round, shot a 75 this time in a round mired by four bogeys in the last eight holes.

With a 303 aggregate after two rounds, the Philippines is tied with Finland (154) in the 42-team field.

South Africa, which fired a six-under 138 Thursday, moved up the leaderboard with 277, three shots in front of Germany, which pooled a 139 for 280.

First-day leader Japan could only match par 144 at the De Zalze Golf Club and slid to third with a 281, while France made its move by shooting the day's best score of 136 and jumped from 12th to No. 4 with a 282.

N. Cotabato Braves nip Bacchus five

KIDAPAWAN, N. COTABATO—THE NORTH Cotabato Braves leaned on a big second half to repulse the visiting Bacchus/Harbour Centre-San Juan cagers, 97-84, Thursday before a big crowd at the provincial capitol gym here.

The Braves of Gov. Manny Pinol broke the contest wide open in the third period behind the hot hands of Henry Fernandez and Rex Ligue to improve their record to 3-2.

The Bacchus/Harbour squad of businessman Mikee Romero and San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito suffered its first loss in three games.

In the other game, defending champion Ozamiz Cotta struck hard in the last 20 minutes to crush newcomer Cellular Pawnshop, 116-88.

The scores:

NORTH COTABATO 97—Fernandez 24, Ligue 19, Jawod 19, Allado 9, Tanigue 7, Dagatan 6, Tamayo 4, Cabanog 4, Etrata 2, Clar 2, Manalac 1, Espinosa 0.

BACCHUS 84—Buenafe 18, Sta. Cruz 17, Alminario 16, Masbang 13, Aquino 9, Pribhdas 5, Kalaw 3, Coyukang 2, Retaga 1, Reroma 0, Williams 0.

Quarters: 26-19, 52-49, 77-64, 97-84.

OZAMIZ 116—Dacia 17, Basco 16, Liangco 15, Guerrero 12, Sampilo 11, Cavan 10, Bansil 9, nicdao 8, Gatumbato 7, Lapera 4, Delina 3, Bat-og 2, Alvarado 2.

CELLULAR 88—Go 18, Ico 16, Tiongson 11, Acion 10, Taligatos 9, Balares 9, Aquino 6, Giron 4, Balares 3, Salud 2, Turato 2, Dela Rea 0.

Quarters: 22-22, 56-43, 82-63, 116-88

Vintage Sports Car tilt slated

SOME 20 DRIVERS PARADE THEIR CLASSIC sports cars to test their reliability and durability in the 2006 San Mig Coffee Vintage Sports Car Cup tomorrow at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Mon Sison, parading his posh Porsche 911, hopes to keep his solo leadership against Japanese Tsutomu Okanami, Carlos Castaneda and Bubi Camus in this event organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit and the Manila Sports Car Club.

Sison finished third and first in the Subic kickoff, posting a fastest laptime of 1:32.49 seconds while Okanami, driving a Datsun 240 Z, is second overall after finishing second and third with a fastest time of 1:33.09.

Castaneda, riding a Volkswgen Beetle, wound up fifth and second with a fastest time of 1:33.70 while Camus, aboard his luxurious Opel GT, is third overall following his sixth and fourth place finishes.

Another driver to watch is Japanese Takatsugu Aoki who won the first race.

FIL ESTATE Land Inc. chair Bob Sobrepeña hits the ceremonial drive opening the La Salle-Ateneo Match Play at Sherwoods Hills. Among those in photo are Federico Campos, Sherwood Hills vice chair (left); Peng Perez de Tagle of Club Leisure Management Corp., Ateneo skipper Teboy Javier La Salle team captain Freddie Mendoza.

Match Play: La Salle golfers up by 1 after fourball skirmishes

TRECE MARTIRES, CAVITE—THE Green Archers took a slim 3.5-2.5 lead over the Blue Eagles at the start of the Fil-Estate Land Inc. La Salle-Ateneo Match Play golf championship at the Sherwood Hills Golf and Country Club.

The defending champions won three, lost two and halved one match in the fourball competition that kicked off the three-day, Ryder Cup event.

Veteran Tommy Manotoc, teaming up with youthful King Stehmeier, outlasted the pair of Jeric Hechanova and Marty Ilagan, 2 and 1, for La Salle's first point.

"I played the game of my life," said Manotoc, who had four birdies, including back-to-back from the 10th hole that gave the Archers a three-hole cushion.

Ilagan, a former top tennis player, birdied No. 12 and No. 15 to reduce the gap to one hole, but both he and Hechanova bogeyed No. 16, restoring La Salle's two-hole lead.

The match ended on the 17th when both teams halved the hole.

The pairs of Raffy Garcia and Chuck Hong, and Justin Limjap and Oliver Gan scored the other La Salle wins.

Garcia birdied five of the first six holes as he and Hong routed Ateneo's Marcel Puyat and Iggy Clavecilla, 7 and 5.

Limjap and Gan, on the other hand, turned back Manoling Chan and Jingy Tuason, 2 and 1, in the final pairing of the day.

The first match pitting La Salle's Raymund Sangil and Kim Hong against Ateneo's Louie Dacudao and Lovelyn Guioguio ended in a tie.

"I had an eight-foot, uphill straight birdie putt that could have won us the match, but I missed. *Nakabig*," said the Davao-based Dacudao.

Ateneo's two wins came from Junjun Plana and Jose Mari Hechanova, and Pepot Iñigo and Eric Gozo.

Plana and Hechanova combined for a four-under-par card through 17 holes to beat Miko Yee and Marco Olives, 2 and 1.

Inigo and Gozo sparkled with six birdies against no bogey to defeat Francis Gaston and JP Reyes, 2 and 1.

Play shifted to foursomes later in the afternoon with the Archers hoping to ride on the momentum.

"We were expecting a close match," said La Salle captain Freddie Mendoza. "A tie would have been OK, but to take the lead, it's a big bonus."

Ateneo skipper Teboy Javier remained confident despite trailing the Archers. "All we have to do is play. We're sure of victory," said Javier.

Tea n play continues today with 18 singles matches wrapping up the event on Sunday.

Gorres, Banal fight tough Indons tonight

ALA BOYS Z "THE DREAM" GORRES and Alex John 'Bazooka' Banal take on dangerous Indon opponents in tonight's 10-bout 'War in the Ring' card at the Mandaue City Sports and Cultural Complex.

Gorres, aiming for a big win in a bid to get a crack at the WBO superfly title, takes on Sony Manakane in a 10-round shootout, while the unbeaten Banal battles Angky Angkota in the other 10-round co-feature.

Gorres (25-1-1, 13 KOs), now promoted by Oscar dela Hoya, has been promised a chance to challenge WBO superfly champ Fernando Montiel if victorious tonight.

The undefeated Banal (9 wins, 1 draw, 8 KOs) is expected to have the tougher assignment against Angky Angkota (17-3, 11 KOs), who has beaten all seven Filipinos he had faced, including ex-world champ Joma Gamboa. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

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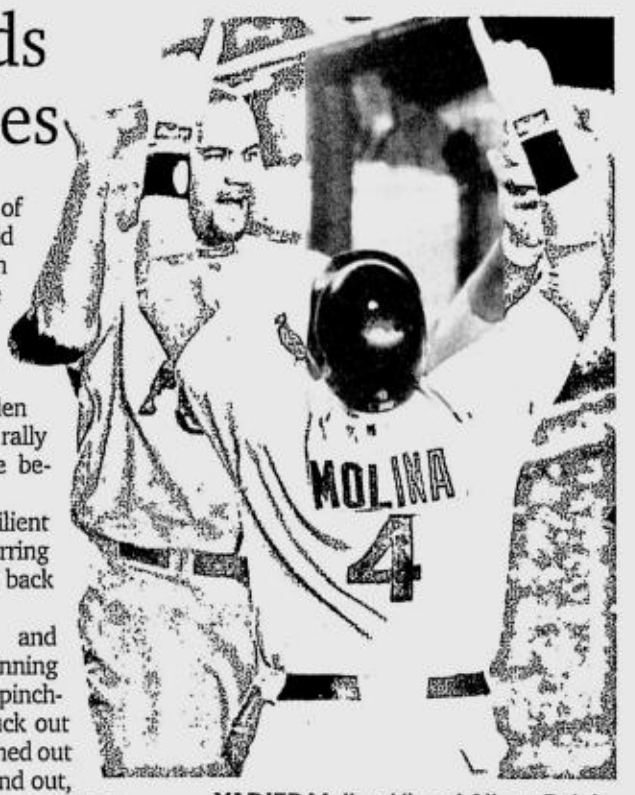
SPORTS

Cardinals triumph

9th-inning homer sends St. Louis to World Series



YADIER Molina (4) and Albert Pujols celebrate their victory. REUTERS

NEW YORK—YADIER MOLINA'S tiebreaking home run in the ninth inning and another pitching gem from Jeff Suppan led the St. Louis Cardinals over the New York Mets, 3-1, on Thursday and into the World Series.

The Cardinals earned their second National League pennant in three years and a date with the Detroit Tigers on Saturday in Game 1 of the World Series.

"Our team deserves it," Cardinals rookie closer Adam Wainwright said. "We battled so hard in the playoffs."

Wainwright wriggled out of a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the ninth, striking out St. Louis nemesis Carlos Beltran to end Game 7 of the NL championship series and leave a stunned crowd of 56,357 in deflated silence just moments after it had Shea Stadium shaking.

Molina, a .216 career hitter with only six home runs during the regular season, drove the first pitch he saw from reliever Aaron Heilman into New York's bullpen for a 3-1 lead in the ninth.

Endy Chavez, who made one of the most memorable playoff catches just three innings earlier when he reached above the eight-foot fence to snag Scott Rolen's shot in the tip of his right glove, could only stand and watch at the left-field fence as the Mets' World Series hopes were dashed.

In the ninth, Rolen got the St. Louis rally started with a single before Molina's shot.

But the Mets, resilient throughout their stirring season, nearly came back in the ninth.

Jose Valentin and Chavez opened the inning with singles before pinch-hitter Cliff Floyd struck out looking. Jose Reyes lined out to center for the second out, but Paul Lo Duca drew a walk that loaded the bases.

That brought up Beltran, who homered three times in the series after hitting .417 with four home runs for Houston in the 2004 NLCS against St. Louis.

Wainwright, filling in for injured closer Jason Isringhausen, got ahead in the count immediately and froze Beltran with a breaking ball for strike three. It was his third save in the series.

"It's really disappointing. It was a great game," Mets manager Willie Randolph said. "We just didn't get any big hits."

Suppan won the MVP award for two outstanding starts. *AP*

POC shrugs off Go's tirades

By June Navarro

CLAIMING IT WAS ALL A RESULT OF miscommunication, the Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday said criticisms hurled by Go Teng Kok are the least of its concern.

POC spokesperson Joey Romasanta said the Olympic body would rather focus on the country's preparations for the Asian Games than make a big deal out of Go's brickbats.

"We should concentrate on the Asian Games and not get distracted by this controversy," said Romasanta a day after Go went ballistic over the POC move to form an investigative body that will look into his alleged involvement with the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

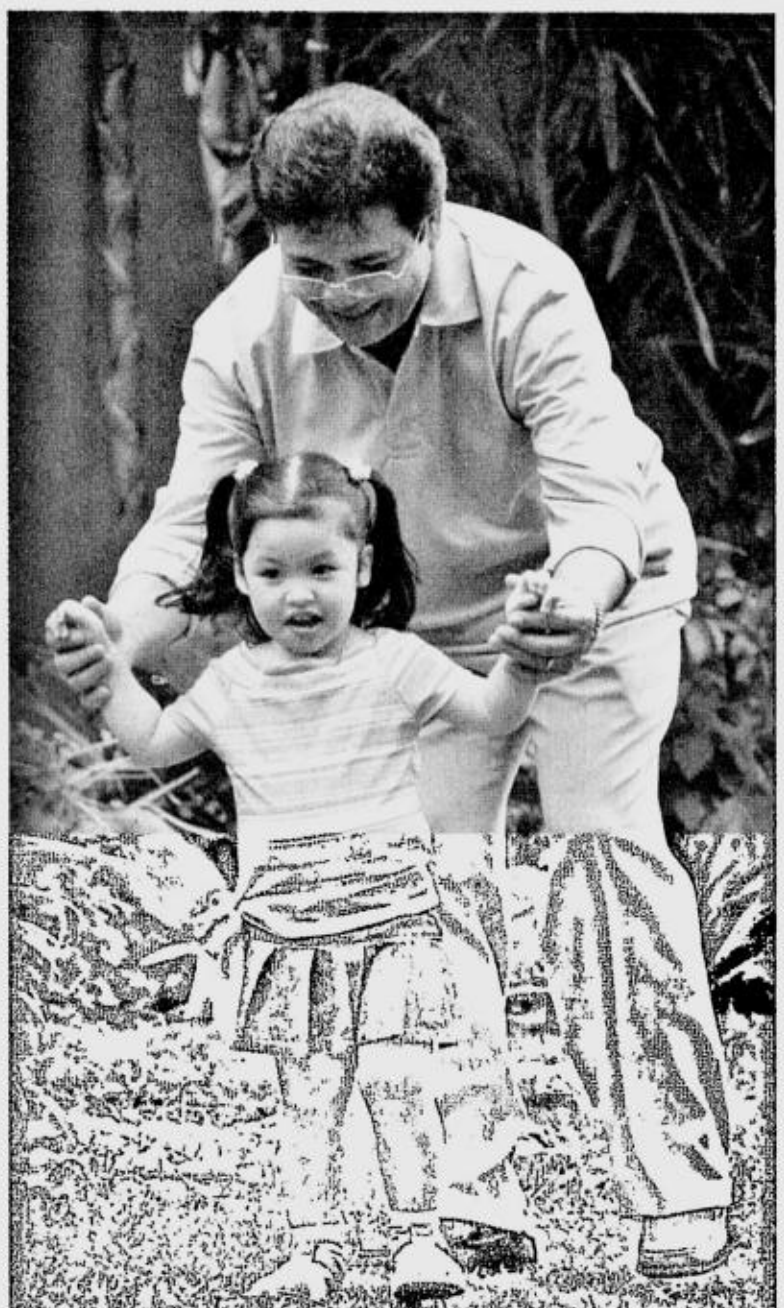
The president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association launched several tirades against POC officials, particularly bowling chief Steve Hontiveros, Vic Valvuena of table tennis and weightlifting's Monico Puentevella.

Go accused Valvuena of illegally using the allowances of the athletes, Hontiveros of not declaring the status of the office equipment purchased during the SEA Games while questioning the personality of Puentevella as Bacolod City representative.

"This is a simple issue of miscommunication," said Romasanta. "I advise Go to attend the meetings of the POC and air his side."

Go has also threatened to resign from the Olympic body as special assistant to POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco even if the POC pardons him.

A Joint Celebration



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FIRST SERVE: Charmaine Canillas, advertising and promotions manager of Petron Corp. does the ceremonial serve for the ladies' beach volleyball tournament Battle of the Champions at the Kidzworld Resort in Dasmariñas, Cavite. ROMY HOMILLADA

Festive inaugurals kick off 2nd national youth games

FESTIVE AND COLORFUL OPENING CEREmonies, conceived by one of the directors behind the memorable inaugural rites of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games and Paragames, will usher in the 2nd MY Games National Invitational on Sunday at the San Andres Sports and Civic Center in Malate, Manila.

Internationally recognized choreographer Tony Fabella has lined up an "unforgettable" sports and cultural showcase featuring the Manila Dance Center troupe and the Philippine Taekwondo Association demonstration team to kick off the week-long sportsfest.

"We want to open the 2nd MY Games National Invitational on a rousing note to set the spirited tone of this age-group meet featuring some of our promising athletes from all over the country," Manila Sports Council chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza said.

"This is also the Manila City government's way of warmly welcoming the participants in the meet to the capital city."

De Guzman, 5 others advance to ₱1-M Hold'em grand finals

JOJO DE GUZMAN LED FIVE OTHER QUALIfiers to the grand finals of the Million-Peso Hold'em Philippine Championship after topping the poker skills satellite tournament recently at the Casino Filipino Tagaytay.

Others who earned berths in the grand finals are Portia Dacanay, Lady M, Archie Dimaano, Alex Casalme and Jian Sinclair.

The five Tagaytay winners and the other qualifiers will vie for the P3 million worth of prizes at stake in the grand finals.

Martin Guiang and Raymundo Deona, who barely missed the bus, consoled themselves with free slots in the next satellite competition.

The next qualifying satellite tournament is scheduled today at the Casino Filipino Bacolod, kick off leg of the southern swing.

Satellite tourneys will also be held at Casino Filipino Waterfront Hotel in Lahug City, on Oct. 28, the Casino Filipino Mactan-Cebu on Nov. 11 and Casino Filipino Davao on Nov. 25.

For inquiries, visit www.PhilippinePokerTour.com or call the PPT Secretariat (c/o Cindy) at 817-9092 or 812-0153.

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Traders more bullish on RP prospects

Laud role in gov't efforts vs corruption, smuggling

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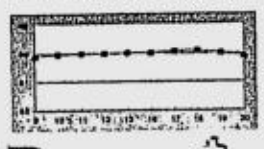

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 20, 2006

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BUSINESS SECTOR'S BULLISHNESS IN THE ECONomy is growing as fresh opportunities arise from greater and direct involvement in governance, including efforts that allow firms to take part in key initiatives toward countryside development.

Donald G. Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, yesterday said the group had been active in the past year on campaigns related to the fight against red tape and corruption; improvement of customs administration; promotion of small and medium enterprises; partnerships with local governments and state universities, and steps to improve the country's competitiveness as an investment location.

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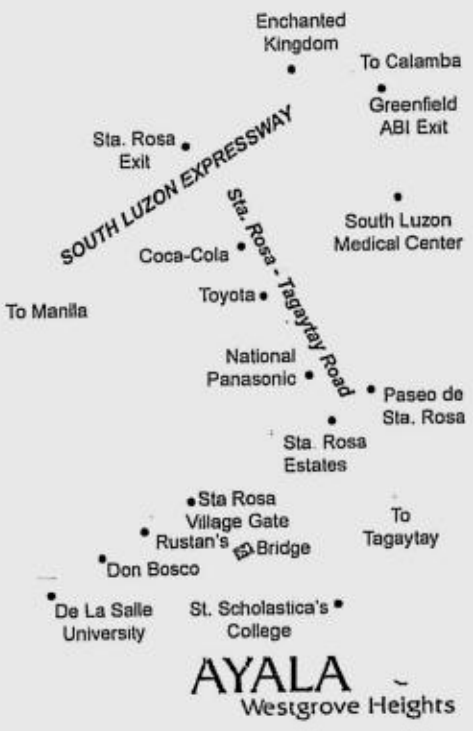

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BSP OKs $450-M loan from ADB

Government earmarks fund for use in energy projects

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has approved in principle the national government's plan to secure a $450-million loan from the Asian Development Bank to develop the country's energy sector.

The program loan will support the national government's efforts to restore financial health of the indebted sector, such as pursuing much-delayed privatization of its assets.

Privatization requires the upgrade of state-owned power plants.

The additional fund from ADB will also aid in the government's assumption of P200-billion debt of the National Power Corp. (Napocor). The debt absorption was considered necessary to make the government's power assets attractive to possible investors.

"This (loan) will help develop the power sector, which has not been able to pursue privatization as scheduled," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday told reporters, explaining the prudence behind the central banl's move to approve the proposed loan.

Initiatives that impact on the value of the peso and the country's dollar reserves, such as undertaking of foreign loans that will require payment using foreign currencies, need approval by the BSP to help ensure they do not cause any currency trouble.

Tetangco said the loan will carry an interest rate of 60 basis points over the six-month Libor and will mature in 15 years.

ADB will also charge a 0.75-percent commitment fee a year should the government fail to use the loan as scheduled. Tetangco said fiscal authorities are looking at using the ADB loan before the end of the year.

The Department of Energy will serve as the implementing agency for the programs to be financed by the loan, Tetangco said.

Privatizing state-owned power assets has been adopted as a strategy to prevent the sector's financial problems from becoming a full-blown crisis and thus help ensure a stable power supply.

"The government's intention (in securing the loan) is to develop a financially stable power sector to help minimize power shortages that impede economic growth," Tetangco said.

The national government agreed to take on the debts of Napocor, as these liabilities, like most obligations of any government-owned and -controlled corporations, carry a sovereign guarantee.

The huge debts of Napocor are largely blamed on its move to tap independent power producers (IPPs) to ensure stable power supply. The IPPs require sure payment of the energy they produce whether or not these are utilized.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK
A Muslim woman selling toys and novelty items on Iznart Street in Iloilo City appears to be tallying her total take for the day. The Muslim faithful will be marking the end of Ramadan next week.

ARNOLD ALMACEN, INQUIRER VISAYAS

Share prices close 0.78% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.78-percent higher yesterday on continued optimism over upcoming quarterly corporate results and improved economic prospects, dealers said.

They said the positive momentum took the index above the psychological barrier of 2,600 points.

The composite index rose 20.26 points to 2,617.41 after moving between 2,620.95 and 2,597.15.

It was the index's highest close since July 5, 1999 when it ended at 2,621.67 points.

The broader all-share index rose 10.67 points to 1,608.74.

Gainers led losers 76 to 28 with 61 unchanged.

Turnover totalled 1.63 billion shares worth P2.38 billion.

"The momentum carried us above the 2,600-point level and this positive sentiment may spill over to next week," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

"There is anticipation over the release of corporate third-quarter results later this month. The record-breaking close of Wall Street also lifted the index," he added.

"Clearly there is momentum and money is flowing into the market, particularly in companies that are expected to report strong earnings for the third quarter," said Mark Alan Canizares of CitisecOnline.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the most briskly traded stock, rose P20 to close at P2,285.

Ayala Corp fell P7.50 to P485.

"Some investors might have switched profits from Ayala Corp to buy laggard issues," Macapagal said.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank advanced 50 centavos to P41.50 and Bank of the Philippine Islands was up P2.50 at P58.50.

Food and beverage firm San Miguel Corp's "A" and "B" shares were steady at P66.50 and P73.50, respectively. *AFP*

RP hobbled by high cost of doing business

ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo Neri has cited the urgency to address the high cost of doing business, which has led the country to fall far behind its counterparts in terms of cornering foreign direct investments.

In a speech on Thursday during the Philippine Business Conference, Neri said that the cost of electricity, logistics and telecommunication services alone eat up as much as 60 percent of total expenditures of an average firm in the Philippines.

He urged government to exert an effort to bring down the figure to 20 percent so that the government would have a chance of realizing its objective to make the Philippines at par with its neighbors in terms of attracting investments.

During his presentation, Neri said 10 to 25 percent of a firm's expenditures are accounted for by electricity, 25 to 30 percent for logistics, and 5 percent for telecommunications.

He said that one manifestation of the Philippines' difficulty in attracting investments was the huge gap between the country's savings and investment rates.

While savings are nearing 30 percent of gross domestic product, these are not turned into investments, which should normally be the case, as savings provide resources for corporate lending. He said investments only hover around 15 percent of GDP.

He said the high cost of doing business in the country also had to do with weak policies and poor delivery of services by some government institutions, some of which become breeding grounds for corruption.

Neri voiced out the concerns of the business sector that some government agencies seem to have problems regarding the implementation of regulatory policies for the benefit of the business environment in general.

He cited the Civil Aeronautics Board, Philippine Ports Authority, Maritime Industry Authority, National Telecommunications Commission and the Energy Regulatory Commission.

The country's chief economist said the Philippines still suffer from what he calls the vicious cycle of booty capitalism, poor governance, poverty and social chaos.

He explained that since election campaigns of politicians are still largely financed by the elite, they have strong influence on government policies and appointments to government positions. This in turn result in policy distortions that hinder the rendering of proper services to the masses. *Michelle V. Remo*

RP firm out to crack Aussie mart

CALL CENTER OWNER PAXYS Inc., formerly Fil-Hispano, has teamed up with Stellar Holdings Inc. to provide contact center services to the Australian market.

Stellar Holdings is a wholly owned subsidiary of J-Telecom Interest Inc., a US company which, through its subsidiaries, provide business solutions services across companies in Australia, Canada and Europe.

In Australia, J-Tel's operations are carried out through Stellar Call Centres Pty Ltd, Australia's premier customer contact solutions provider employing over 3,000 people. It has a network of nine contact centers in Australia.

Paxys and SHI have agreed to put up a Philippine-based service company which will provide contact center services to the J-Tel group and other customers.

The company will be known as Stellar Global Solutions Philippines Inc. Through SGSPI, Paxys and SHI intend to provide a blended Philippine and Australian outsourcing solution initially to Australian-based clients, a market largely untapped by Philippine call centers.

The company will have an authorized capital of P100 million. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

ePLDT set to invest in Philweb

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXchange Commission (SEC) has approved ePLDT's P500-million investment in Philweb Corp., a publicly listed gaming firm belonging to former trade minister Roberto Ongpin.

ePLDT is the information and communications technology arm of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The approval was a result of Philweb's effort to register P502.4 million worth of shares, consisting of 25.12 billion common shares at two cents apiece, which would be issued to ePLDT, according to documents filed with the SEC.

Under an agreement between ePLDT and Philweb, ePLDT will subscribe to 25.12 billion common shares, or 20 percent of Philweb's authorized capital.

Recently, ePLDT subscribed to an additional 5.7 percent, hiking its stake in the firm to 25.7 percent.

Philweb will use part of the proceeds from the investment to subscribe to a planned P100-million stock rights offer by ISM Communications Corp.

Philweb owns 10.9 percent of ISM Communications.

Philweb will also allot P100 million to roll out internet casinos. It has earmarked P200 million as additional equity contribution for a proposed Manila Bay casino project. Another P100 million will be the firm's working capital. While the rest will be set aside to market its "Premyo sa Resibo" promo.

The Manila Bay Casino project is a six-hectare casino and hotel development project. The facility is expected to be built in 2007 and will take two years to complete.

The subscription to ISM's stock rights offer is expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2006.

Philweb plans to transform ISM from a mining company to one engaged in information technology, and multimedia telecommunications.

Philweb currently offers Internet sports betting at the Internet stations of the Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp. (Pagcor).

The company said it would soon roll out its Internet casinos.

Philweb went into Internet gaming in 2003. ePLDT on the other hand controls popular internet café Netopia.

BPI approves sale of FEB savings bank

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE Islands (BPI) on Thursday said that its board had approved the sale of the bank's 100-percent stake in FEB Savings Bank to a group of buyers led by JTKC Equities Inc.

FEB Savings Bank was part of the Far East Bank group which, in turn, merged with the second largest lender BPI in 2000.

JTKC is a major shareholder in companies involved in a wide range of industries, ranging from logistics to finance, real estate, manufacturing hotel and resort property, and upscale serviced apartments that include the MansionGroup and Discovery. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 20, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.1	6.8	6.1	6.5	524,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	41	41.5	41	41.5	5,241,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56.5	58.5	56.5	58.5	1,697,300
China Banking Corp.	680	680	670	675	3,150
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.41	0.44	0.4	0.43	34,000,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	67.5	68	67.5	67.5	32,800
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	55	60	48	55	1,300
Philippine National Bank	34	34.5	34	34.5	15,000
Phil. Savings Bank	42	46	42	46	3,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18	18	18	14,500
Security Bank Corp.	54.5	55	54.5	55	1,429,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.65	4.7	4.55	4.6	2,321,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1595	1600	1595	1600	4,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	20,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	240	240	240	240	50,000
Sun Life Financial Inc	2000	2000	1985	2000	900
Ivantage Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1,949,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	52	52.5	52	52.5	114,600
First Phil Hldgs Corp	51.5	51.5	51	51	708,700
Manila Electric Co. A	28	28	26.5	27	281,200
Manila Electric Co. B	33	33	32	32.5	661,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	2,800,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.05	6,535,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1.12	1	1.06	2,550,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	20,000
Cadp Group Corp.	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	12,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.25	22.25	22	22	67,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	41.5	39.5	41	2,602,500
Pancake House Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	80,000
Rfm Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.14	644,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	170,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.37	480,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66.5	65.5	66.5	103,800
San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	73.5	73.5	73.5	133,000
Universal Robina Corp	19.75	19.75	19.25	19.25	1,129,300
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.43	13,160,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.7	2.95	2.7	2.8	7,009,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.04	2.04	557,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,101,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.5	4.95	4.5	4.7	32,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2.2	2.24	2.16	2.16	333,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.7	4.75	4.55	4.65	1,783,000
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	10,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Active Alliance Inc.	2	2	2	2	20,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.71	0.71	73,120,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.17	0.175	28,160,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	18,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.42	0.47	0.42	0.44	400,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	89,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	11,000,000
Ayala Corp.	492.5	492.5	485	485	409,690
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	300,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,054,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.031	70,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.5	160,000
Apc Group, Inc.	0.245	0.26	0.245	0.25	8,970,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	17,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.92	0.92	1,530,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.05	3.05	3	3.05	86,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	73,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	5,140,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	4.45	4.65	4.45	4.65	5,880,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.74	0.8	0.74	0.8	300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.8	2.8	759,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.66	1.88	1.66	1.84	9,513,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	7.6	8	7.6	7.9	3,003,000
Keppel Holdings	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	7,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,000,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.22	0.24	0.22	0.24	370,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	1.98	2.2	1.98	2.04	420,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.62	1.64	7,788,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.013	0.011	0.012	27,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,470,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	0.88	0.92	0.88	0.92	210,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.76	0.77	1,580,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,600,000
SM Investments Corp.	275	277.5	272.5	275	130,850
South China Resources Inc	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	100,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.44	1.5	1.44	1.5	202,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	3,060,000
Vivant Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.145	9,690,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.25	14.5	14	14.25	2,797,400
Belle Corp.	1.12	1.14	1.1	1.1	16,900,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.32	1.56	1.32	1.54	2,782,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.38	0.43	0.38	0.43	45,250,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.05	402,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	50,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.76	1.78	1.76	1.78	24,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. B	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,180,000
Eib Realty Developers Inc	0.2	0.25	0.2	0.2	1,080,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.57	17,390,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	1,050,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.065	0.0675	0.06	0.0625	13,300,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.7	31,415,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.13	0.14	330,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.B	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	330,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	18,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.35	7,830,000
City & Land Developers	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	30,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.82	0.84	1,430,000
Megaworld Corp.	2	2.08	2	2.06	75,565,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	229,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.34	1,500,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.165	0.195	0.16	0.195	20,120,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13.25	14.25	13.25	14	6,690,300
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.41	830,000
SM Development Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.82	90,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.7	10,818,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.61	530,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	500,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.5	100,200
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1	1	1	1	27,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.54	1.54	1.52	1.54	6,260,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1115	1115	1095	1095	56,090
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.8	2,411,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2280	2290	2275	2285	195,660
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Imperial Res.	0.016	0.018	0.016	0.018	24,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.94	2.02	1.86	1.92	1,450,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	500,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	3,700,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	10,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.15	122,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	264,600
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	3,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	590,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	30	32	30	32	3,200
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.22	565,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	110,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.05	3.05	3	3	1,416,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.52	0.56	0.52	0.56	9,410,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.95	3	2.95	3	301,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2	2.04	2	2	132,000
Paxys Inc.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.5	744,800
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.28	64,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	7	7	6.9	6.9	1,296,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.9	7	6.9	7	642,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	166,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	269,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.8	9.9	9.8	9.8	51,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.245	0.25	0.24	0.25	12,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	18,950,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	66,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	64,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	253,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.9	3.95	3.85	3.85	7,321,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	19	18.5	18.75	1,093,100
Vulcan Ind'l	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.68	580,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,150,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	206,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	70,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	107,000

CURRENCIES

October 20, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.792016	1.000000	50.0130
Japan	Yen	0.006702	0.008462	0.4232
United Kingdom	Pound	1.487328	1.877900	93.9194
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101704	0.128411	6.4222
Switzerland	Franc	0.629834	0.795229	39.7718
Canada	Dollar	0.702391	0.886839	44.3535
Singapore	Dollar	0.503603	0.635849	31.8007
Australia	Dollar	0.599967	0.757518	37.8857
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.101007	2.652731	132.6710
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211193	0.266652	13.3361
Brunei	Dollar	0.502007	0.633834	31.6999
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021234	0.026810	1.3408
UAE	Dirham	0.215644	0.272272	13.6171
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.262600	63.1464
Argentina	Peso	0.256316	0.323625	16.1855
Brazil	Real	0.371316	0.468823	23.4472
Denmark	Kroner	0.134156	0.169385	8.4715
India	Rupee	0.017488	0.022080	1.1043
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215632	0.272257	13.6164
Mexico	New Peso	0.073284	0.092528	4.6276
New Zealand	Dollar	0.526992	0.665380	33.2776
South Africa	Rand	0.105305	0.132958	6.6496
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.001045	0.0523
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023864	0.030131	1.5069

PAL to acquire 8 wide-bodied planes for int'l routes

Will expand US destinations, resume Europe flights

By Riza T. Olchondra

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES INC. (PAL) WILL buy or lease eight new wide-bodied planes from either Airbus or Boeing to expand its routes to the United States and Canada and to resume services to Europe, airline officials said at the unveiling yesterday of the flag carrier's newest aircraft.

The introduction PAL's newest plane, an Airbus A319-100, launched the modernization of the flag carrier's single-aisle fleet as part of its P840-million refleeting program. The single-aisle fleet can serve domestic and Asia-Pacific routes.

PAL may spend about $200 million for each of the additional eight aircraft to be acquired. PAL wants four to be delivered between 2008 and 2009 and the rest before the end of 2011.

"We will borrow from banks," PAL chair Lucio Tan told reporters when asked where the airline would get the money for the fleet expansion.

"We can get the support of the export credit agencies or US Eximbank or we can do an operating lease," PAL president and chief operating officer Jaime Bautista said in a separate interview. He also noted that the airline's board would decide by year's end on which planes to order.

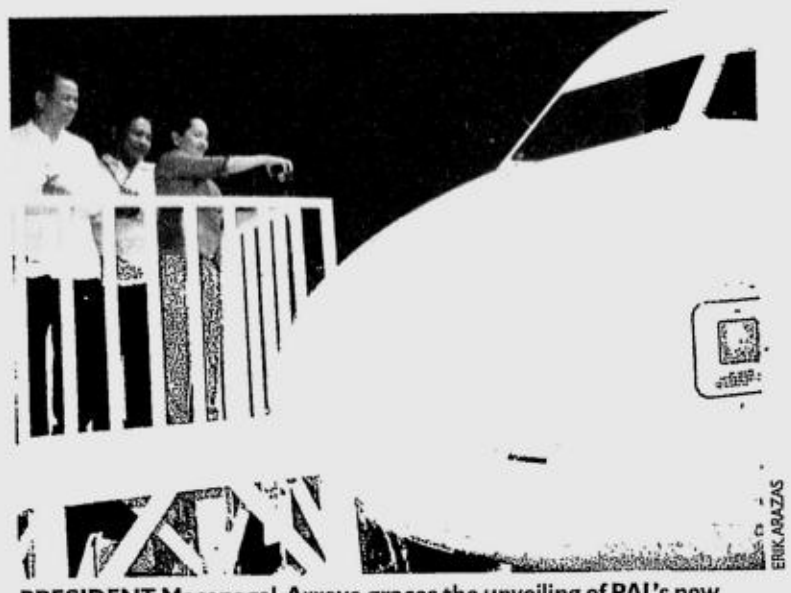
Bautista had said earlier that the flag carrier was in the final phase of talks with three European export credit agencies to secure a loan of up to $600 million to fund its refleeting program.

PAL has nine wide-bodied planes flying to Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco in the United States and Vancouver in Canada. Five are Boeing 747-400s and four are Airbus 340-300s.

The flag carrier is now choosing between the Airbus 340-600 and the Boeing 777-300 to fly to other international destinations.

Bautista said PAL might fly to Seattle and San Diego initially. "We're (also) looking at flying to (other cities in) California and ... (reviving flights) to Europe," Bautista said.

PAL stopped services to Europe in the late 1990s when it was hit by the Asian financial crisis and labor disputes. The airline has slowly recovered through a restructuring program.



ERIK ARAZAS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo graces the unveiling of PAL's new A319 with PAL chair Lucio Tan (L) and PAL president and CEO Jaime Bautista at the Lufthansa Technik hangar in Villamor Airbase.

Hyundai Azera and Tucson Named Best-in-Segment in Strategic Vision 2006 Total Value Awards

The Hyundai Azera and Hyundai Tucson were each named winners in the Strategic Vision 2006 Total Value Awards. Results announced last October 9, 2006 placed the Azera atop the large car segment, and Tucson in a tie (with the Saturn Vue) for the top spot in the small sport utility vehicle segment.

The Strategic Vision poll surveyed more than 64,000 new vehicle buyers after 90 days of ownership. Results from this information spotlight vehicles that give drivers the best economic value paired with the highest emotional satisfaction.

Consumers were asked an array of questions about their ownership experience including buying, owning and driving their new vehicles, as well as questions about their economic expectations of the car. The Hyundai Azera and Tucson outclassed competitor vehicles with a combination of distinct styling, outstanding safety features, and the Hyundai Advantage, America's Best Warranty™.

"We're proud that the Azera and Tucson lead their segments in balancing economic value with emotional satisfaction," said John Krafcik, vice president of Product Development and Strategic Planning, Hyundai Motor America. "It's quite a feat to provide consumers with the best of both worlds, and the Hyundai model lineup offers the right mix of comfort and convenience features, paired with standard safety technologies and unbeatable value, to appeal to consumers on both an emotional and economic level."

Hyundai vehicles are available in the Philippines through Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. (HARI) dealerships nationwide

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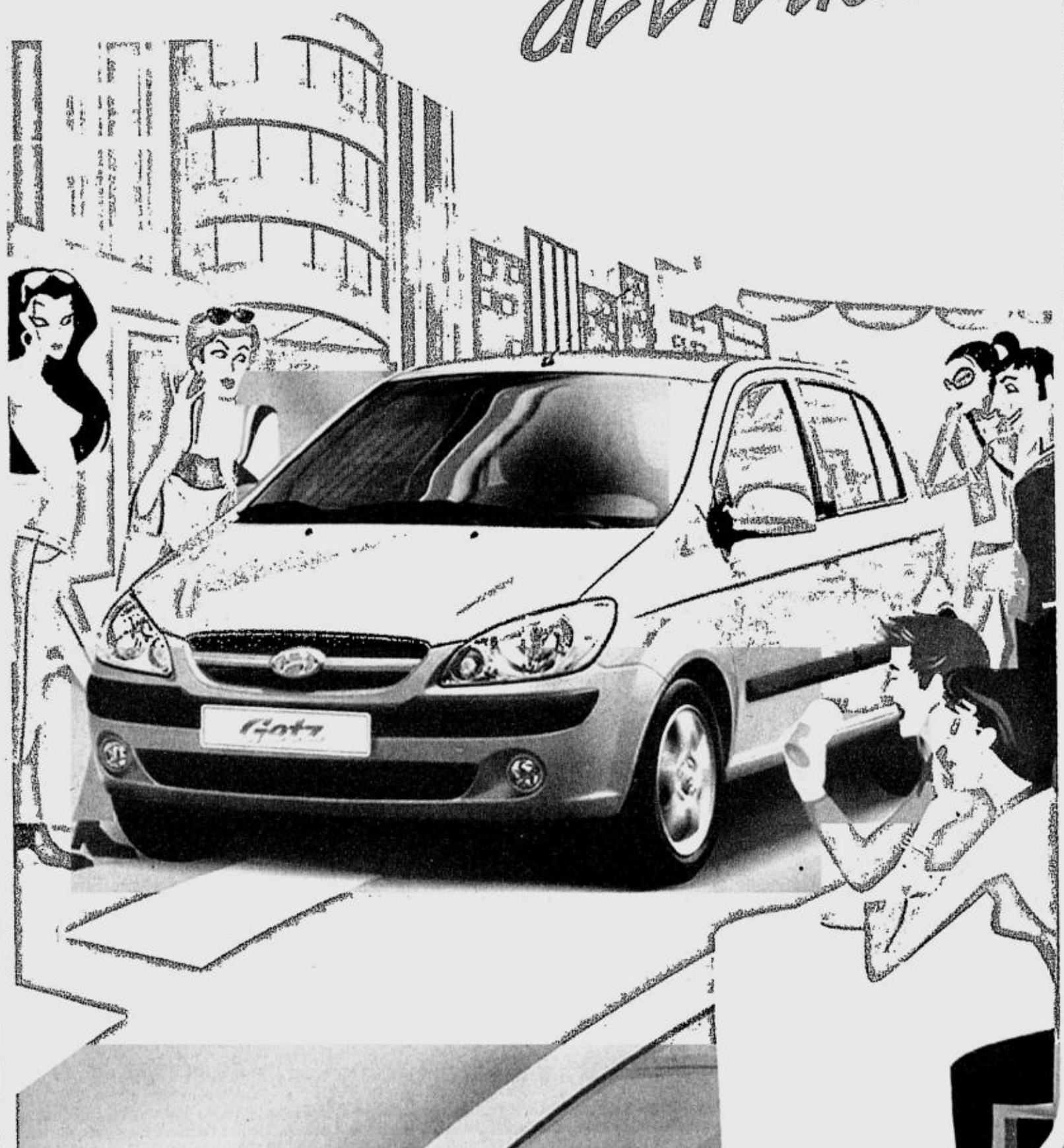

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Advancing cancer research in RP

By Charles E. Buban

WITH THE RISING CANcer incidence rates in the country, the University of Santo Tomas Hospital has recently introduced a comprehensive and competitive cancer-fighting strategy: the advancement of cancer research—from basic research to prevention, treatment and care.

"Fighting cancer is not a simple matter of thinking positively and wishing it away. It's a matter of knowledge. It's a matter of educating oneself about every detail and mustering all the resources available. Without research, existing cancer treatment may become passé in a matter of three to four years," reminds Dr. Cenon Alfonso, USTH president and CEO.

Alfonso hopes to bring changes and with the recent opening of the hospital's Benavides Cancer Institute, the doctor believed USTH is now in a position to help elevate the country as a leading cancer research institute in Asia.

The institute is the centerpiece of USTH's five-year modernization program. By 2010, the hospital will complete integration of its 18 units into five institutes providing cancer treatment, total cardiovascular care, organ transplantation, endocrine and metabolic disease management, and ophthalmology services.

P350 million

Spending P350 million for the institute, the hospital beginning 2005 has been updating its equipment as well as beefing up its roster with renowned surgeons and oncologists (who study, diagnose and treat cancerous tumors).

"There is a real need to develop innovative new treatments for those patients whose cancers are resistant to conventional therapies so the hospital recently accepted a US-trained specialist who would soon lead the institute in stem cell research, which has the potential to change the face of human disease, including cancer, by being used to repair specific tissues or to grow organs," Alfonso says.

Complementing this, Alfonso reports that BCI is now piloting a paperless medical management system, an electronic medical records that would hopefully minimize if not eliminate the need to look for missing, misfiled or incomplete files of patients.

But what will set BCI apart from other cancer centers in the country, according to him, is its capacity to provide comprehensive care, research and programs of training.

3 elements

"Our programs of training entail teaching lay people how to prevent cancer, training doctors how to treat cancer, and training specialists how to teach doctors and lay persons. An institute must have these three elements in order to be successful," Alfonso says.

In this regard, he informs that BCI, as part of its foray into medical tourism, has designed short-stay postgraduate training programs that would cater to foreign participants.

This will be part of next month's negotiations that the hospital has arranged with a delegation of top executives coming from Zimbabwe in Africa.

Similar arrangements are also being planned with Kazakhstan and some countries in the Middle East.

"On an annual basis such training programs could draw as much as 40 to 50 visitors per country and help put the Philippines on the global medical tourism map. With the capability of BCI's Angelo King auditorium, participants in these training programs can plug into an operating room of some of the world's leading hospitals and research centers elsewhere in the world in real time, Alfonso says.

The P13.4 million, 201-seater auditorium is equipped for audiovisual presentations that would allow medical telepresence as well as video conferencing so that participants will be able to view a surgery in real time and interact with the doctors performing the procedure.

"Medical telepresence can train would-be surgeons in a unique but effective way. For example, the recorded operation procedure allows trainees to investigate the details of the operation and have a sense of being in the operation room," Alfonso explains.

With the auditorium's real-time capability, on-the-spot consultation is also possible, not to mention that local researchers may now be able to take part in scientific experiments being conducted elsewhere in the world.

"Indeed, BCI is the hospital's proactive response to the challenges of the new medical era, highlighted by a highly competitive globalization of healthcare demands and delivery both in terms of safety and service, medical branding, medical tourism and medical IT," Alfonso says.

Learning in the media age

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

IN OUR FAST-PACED WORLD, TEACHing and learning require a radical shift. The traditional emphasis on the required skills may need to be supplemented by other skills. The three Rs, of course, are still essential, but aside from literacy and numeracy, our youth need technological fluency to cope with the demands of a multimedia environment. Former New Jersey Schools superintendent David Sousa puts it best: "Yesterday's methods worked well for yesterday's students. But the student brain of today is quite different from the one of 15 years ago."

Student learning is affected by the environment, especially mass media and technology. Sure, these developments have made communication easier and faster, but they also clutter our lives with junk. Students need to learn how to be critical and reflective thinkers, now more than ever, and to use technology for cooperative rather than competitive activities.

Up-to-date with tech

In turn, teachers need to keep up-to-date with technology (rather than shun it), so they can be of more help to their kids in making sense of today's world. In fact, since the cell phone has become ubiquitous today, for the past year I have been providing daily math, science and trivia puzzles for the major telcos in the country. To subscribe, text PUZZLE to 2346 for Globe and Sun, or to 206 for Smart.

According to psychologists, our students need to develop new forms of literacy, such as technological (becoming familiar with machines and using them in a practical context), information (critically evaluating the myriads of available information), communication (learning online etiquette and procedures), and media (analyzing and utilizing different forms for various purposes). However, this does not mean that we should sacrifice with traditional literacy. Text messages may be fun and fast, but our students should still know proper spelling; calculators may make complex calculations easier, but our students should still know arithmetic, logic and most of all, problem solving.

Included topics

I find the above issue so important that this Friday, during a plenary session in Metrobank's Network of Outstanding Teachers and Educators (Noted) conference, I will give a brief talk on exactly what new abilities have become a necessity, and how educators of all levels can promote them in the classroom. Titled "How Filipino Youth Learn in the 21st Century: The Psychology of Learning in the Media Age," the talk will highlight the various factors which affect learning, stemming from cognition, social context, emotion, family and culture. The talk will also touch on the following:

• According to renowned psychologist Howard Gardner, an important implication of multiple intelligences is that we should not just focus on the strengths of the child. Instead, we should harness the strengths to help the learner overcome his weaknesses. For young children, kinesthetic and tactile activities are important.

• Selective attention and memory issues plague our children today, but various techniques (such as clustering, chunking and association) can be used to help them retain, encode and retrieve information from memory.

• Students have different personalities, and wise teachers can provide options for both individual and group work in and out of class. As to so-called structured versus progressive schools, they each have their pros and cons, but wise parents need to discover which is best for the child.

• Students also have different temperaments, so wise teachers can vary activities (high-intensity to reflective lessons), ensuring smooth transitions between them. But studies have proven that children remember better (and learn better) things which have emotional content for them. Most math concepts, for instance, need to be tied to real life for them to be best understood.

• Cultural barriers such as instant gratification and little emphasis on mind and learning abound in Philippine society. Neglectful parents (who usually shift the burden of teaching their children to other people) also affect their children's performance adversely, especially since the latter have not developed good study habits to help them do well in school. Yes, schools are supposed to be bastions of education, but as the adage says, learning starts at home—with the family.

Noted: An honor society whose members are Metrobank's Outstanding Teacher Awardees, aims to develop a culture of excellence and service among Filipino educators. On Oct. 26 and 27, a conference focusing on present and future challenges in teaching and learning will be held at the Century Park Sheraton. We invite teachers of all levels to participate in the conference. For details, please contact Dr. Evelina Vicencio at telefax 928-5423 or e-mail evevicencio@yahoo.com.ph; or Metrobank Foundation at tel. 898-8898 or e-mail foundation@metrobank.com.ph.

* * *

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Curing hiccups: Ig Nobel 2006

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

THE LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE BEEN FULL of announcements from Sweden regarding this year's Nobel prize winners, followed by more detailed news reports regarding each of the new laureates. Still, it is also important to remember that another annual awards ceremony took place earlier this month, honoring those whose work makes people laugh, and then makes them think. Yes, this year's Ig Nobel prizes were handed out last Oct. 5 at Harvard University.

For those unfamiliar with this event, the Ig Nobel awards are given in most of the same categories as Alfred Nobel's bequests, and the public is welcome to submit nominations for the Ig Nobels by way of the Annals of Improbable Research (AIR) magazine. Many Ig Nobel winners travel to Boston to personally accept their awards from genuine Nobel laureate. In 2004, Daisuke Inoue came from Japan to receive the Ig Nobel Peace Prize for inventing karaoke.

Though all of this year's winners are worth a look, a few stand out as good examples of the Ig Nobel's unique description. Their work is further detailed below.

No one blinks

In the field of Mathematics, the Ig Nobel went to Australians Nic Svenson and Dr. Piers Barnes of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) for calculating the number of pictures one would have to take to ensure (though still not quite guarantee) that no one blinks in a group photo when the camera shutter clicks. In the June 2006 issue of Velocity magazine, Ms Svenson writes that as she often has to take group photos, she wondered how many photos one would have to take to get one good, blink-free picture. After discussing the matter with her colleague, Dr. Barnes, the latter developed the mathematical model in the same article.

The bad news is that the math says quite a few photos have to be taken, and the numbers vary depending on good or bad lighting conditions. In bad light, Dr. Barnes says that at least 30 photos would need to be taken of a group of 30 people to ensure no one blinks at the wrong moment. In good light however, only about 15 photos would need to be taken. For the record, Dr. Barnes' rule of thumb in the article, is "for groups of less than 20: divide the number of people by three if there's good light and two if the light's bad."

Sounds that annoy people

Not all prizes are for work done so recently. The Ig Nobel award for Acoustics was shared by D. Lynn Halpern, Randolph Blake and James Hillenbrand, whose work appeared in the Perception and Psychophysics journal back in 1986 when all three were at Northwestern University.

At the time, they were studying sounds that annoy people, including the often-used cliché of fingernails scraping along a blackboard. Filtering the latter, Halpern et al. were surprised to find that the real irritant wasn't the high-pitched noise that most people think of, but rather the lower frequency sounds. When these sounds were filtered out, the study's participants reported that the remaining higher-pitched noise was almost pleasant.

Treating persistent hiccups

Last but not least, this year's Ig Nobel award for Medicine was shared by Dr. Francis Fesmire of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and Majed Odeh, Harry Bassan and Arie Oliven at the Bnai Zion Medical Center in Israel for their method of treating persistent hiccups.

Dr. Fesmire's nomination was based on a medical case he detailed in the Annals of Emergency Medicine back in August 1988 when he was still affiliated with the University Hospital at Jacksonville, Florida. In February 1990, Odeh et al. published a medical case report of their own in the Journal of Internal Medicine that bore the exact same title as Dr. Fesmire's paper, and their findings corroborated the 1988 findings.

What exactly did Fesmire and Odeh et al. recommend as a way to treat hiccups? Suffice it to say that their papers are titled "Termination of intractable hiccups with digital rectal massage."

* * *

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Working for a healthier Philippines

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

IF WE CAN'T BE AS WEALTHY AS FIRST-world countries are, we can at least be healthy.

The Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) through its communications committee spearheaded by Dr. Tony Leachon, has attained a beachhead with the endorsement of its health policy recommendation by the Senate, Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education.

Expected endorsement

The DepEd and the CHED have approved the PCP health advocacy endorsed by the Senate through Sen. Jun Magsaysay. The approvals have paved the way for an expected endorsement of this policy recommendation by the Senate to President Macapagal-Arroyo. The proponents hope that the GMA will consider it favorably and issue an executive order or EO which can ensure the proposal's effective implementation.

The primary goal of the PCP proposal is to improve the healthcare and education system of the Filipino people through the broad partnership of government, legislators, educators, physicians, teachers, the business sector and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). This broad coalition will hopefully muster greater support for programs that would target the prevention of the leading causes of sickness and deaths in the country. The ultimate goal is to create a healthier Filipino.

The policy recommendation also aims to create and build a culture of commitment, involving not only healthcare professionals but others as well to help heal the various "ills" and tribulations of the nation. With a deep sense of commitment, the "haves" would hopefully share their blessings with the "have nots" by way of social responsibility programs, specifically in the areas of health and education.

The working hypothesis of the policy recommendation is that there is a link between deterioration in healthcare condition and quality of education. Therefore, by improving the quality of education, healthcare condition should gradually improve with time. This makes some sense since education on the preventive aspects of these common causes of illness and death can truly inculcate a strong sense of treasuring one's health, and never allowing it to be compromised in one's pursuit of material wealth when one starts to work.

Policy recommendation

The policy recommendation entails partnering with the DepEd, Department of Science and Technology, CHED and other educators in incorporating relevant health education updates which will emphasize the prevention of leading causes of illness and death such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), diabetes and other communicable diseases in the school curriculum of primary, secondary, college and postgraduate levels.

It proposes to include also relevant topics like moral values, integrity, patriotism, leadership, communication skills, code of ethics and passion for excellence. The emphasis on morals and values aims to create and build a new culture of commitment which will help uplift our economy and enhance the image of Filipinos here and abroad.

The plan of action is to identify, harmonize and consolidate all advocacy and public health campaign programs in cooperation with the government and the different subspecialty societies of the PCP, and other medical organizations affiliated with the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), that would address the top 10 leading causes of morbidity and mortality, currently afflicting the country.

Big challenge

A big challenge for this proposal to be effectively executed is to influence the government and its legislators to increase the budget allocation for health and bring it, maybe not at par, but at least a little closer to what the World Health Organization recommends. At present, our health allocation is not even a third of the WHO recommendation.

Realizing the budgetary constraints, a two-pronged approach is proposed: partnership programs with the private sector to raise funds and human resource reservoir to carry out the programs in sustained fashion; and shifting the focus from sick care to preventive medicine wellness preservation.

This is an excellent policy recommendation; and we hope that life could be breathed into it via a presidential EO.

BIR develops system to establish accountability

Performance rating scheme in line with government's Lateral Attrition Law

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE, hard-pressed to meet its higher tax-collection goal next year, is in the process of developing a performance management system, wherein the revenue agency's total revenue target shall be divided among individual collectors to establish accountability.

"The target should be determined down to the level of examiners and revenue district officers to make collection more efficient," BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag yesterday told reporters.

Buñag said the guidelines for the implementation of the performance management system will be available before the end of the year.

The system will be used to facilitate the implementation of the Lateral Attrition Law.

The law, which took effect this year, provides a system of rewards and punishment to concerned BIR personnel based on their collection performance.

The Lateral Attrition Law states that monetary incentives shall be given to those who will meet their targets.

Those who will record a shortfall of at least 7.5 percent of their targets shall either be demoted, reassigned or dismissed.

The BIR is tasked to collect P784 billion in taxes next year, consistent with the national government's aim of further reducing the budget deficit to P63 billion from the P125 billion programmed this year.

The BIR is the government's biggest revenue source among line agencies.

Buñag earlier expressed disagreement with the setting of the agency's target for 2007.

He said the target was too high and did not consider the BIR's actual revenue-collecting capability.

The 2007 tax collection target assigned to the BIR for 2007 is over P100 billion more than its P675.4 billion goal for this year, which the revenue agency is already struggling to meet.

But despite complaining against the target, Buñag said the BIR is working on various measures to increase tax collection.

Other measures include the "industry benchmarking" strategy, and the third-party information auditing system among others.

Under industry benchmarking, the BIR uses average income of companies belonging in the same industry to determine whether or not the income declared by a corporate taxpayer is accurate or understated. Third-party information auditing system uses data such as purchases made by clients to determine a company's actual income versus what is declared.

BUÑAG

CALL CENTER LAUNCH
Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales Jr. (left) welcomes the opening of another call center site in his city. Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., through its subsidiary ePLDT, recently launched the call center under the Ventus brand to address the growing demand for outsourced services.

Biofuels law to save RP $200M a year

By Abigail L. Ho

THE COUNTRY CAN SAVE AT LEAST $200 million a year when the Biofuels Law is implemented.

In a presentation during the recently concluded Philippine Business Conference, Energy Undersecretary Melinda Ocampo said the mandatory blending of gasoline with 5-percent ethanol would displace 255 million liters of gasoline imports a year.

This would result in foreign exchange savings of $174 million during the first two years of the implementation of the law, she said.

Increasing the ethanol blend to 10 percent, she said, would displace 565 million liters of gasoline imports a year, leading to foreign exchange savings of $386 million by the fourth year of the law's implementation.

To fulfill the mandated 5-percent ethanol blend, however, she said 60,000 hectares of sugarcane would have to be planted and at least nine ethanol refineries, worth a combined $270 million, would have to be established.

For the 10-percent blend, 135,000 ha of land would have to be planted with sugarcane, enough to provide feedstock to the 10 additional plants, costing an estimated $300 million, that would have to be set up by the fourth year of the law's implementation, she said.

For diesel, on the other hand, she said some 41 million liters of diesel imports would be displaced each year with the mandatory blending of 1 percent of biodiesel with ordinary diesel. This would generate foreign exchange savings of $25 million.

By the second year of implementation, assuming that it would be found feasible to increase the biodiesel blend to 2 percent, the country would be able to cut petro-diesel imports by 85 million liters, resulting in foreign exchange savings of $51 million.

For the first two years of implementation and up to a mandatory 2-percent biodiesel blend, she said no new plants had to be established as the country's current biodiesel production would be enough to meet projected demand during that time.

Coconut hectarage would have to be increased, however, by 85,854 hectares for a 1-percent blend and by 178,083 for a 2-percent blend.

Should the required biodiesel blend be eventually increased to 5 percent, she said two new plants would have to be set up as demand for the alternative fuel would likely increase to 229 million liters.

Some 477,708 hectares of land would also have to be allotted for coconut planting, she said.

Traders more bullish on RP prospects

From page B1

"Over the years, we have maintained our neutrality on some of the most pressing political issues the country has faced," Dee said. "On the other hand, we continue to be an active voice in support of key governance reforms."

Dee was speaking at the closing rites of the 32nd Philippine Business Conference at the Manila Hotel.

He said that in the past years, the PCCI was able to reinforce its role in governance reforms through its membership in the newly instituted task force against red tape and in national and regional SME development councils and development boards.

The official added that the PCCI was also able to strengthen cooperation with state universities and local government organizations like the Leage of Vice Mayors.

The PCCI also helped the government "restore" an average of P40 million in monthly customs revenues by tracking misdeclared and undervalued shipments.

"We also initiated a comprehensive program in addressing our declining international competitiveness, having been tasked as a monitoring agency in the (newly formed) Competitiveness Task Force Monitoring Council," Dee said.

The PCCI chief said the group was continuing efforts on some of the most important private sector advocacies, including the campaign for amendments to the laws on the reformed valued-added tax and on power industry reforms; prioritization of key infrastructure projects, streamlining business procedures and flows, and rationalization of fiscal incentives.

"Amid concerns on the declining competitiveness of our industries, we (remain steadfast) in seizing global opportunities," Dee said.

2 more to join VoIP bandwagon

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) has allowed two more Internet call outfits to provide voice over internet protocol (VoIP) services to subscribers.

There are now a total of 14 VoIP providers and sellers.

VoIP is a more affordable alternative to traditional telephone calls as it transmits voice calls via the Internet instead of telephone networks, which entail access charges.

With the increasing number of Internet voice call offerings and subscribers, VoIP is expected to drive the IT market's growth in the Philippines over the next five years, according to studies.

Many VoIP subscribers are home-based users and call centers that save costs by using the Internet to send and receive voice calls and data.

The two newest companies which subscribers can try out are BC Net Inc., which has obtained permission to operate as a provider of VoIP services from Oct. 11 until Oct. 10 next year, and Broadband2Go Communications, which obtained permission to resell VoIP services from Oct. 10, 2006 to Oct. 9 next year.

Others are VoIP resellers TransPacific Broadcast Group Int'l. Inc., Mozcom Inc. and KD Pacific Trading Development Corp.

The rest are VoIP providers Cashround Inc., TechNetworks Corp., Crown Multimedia and Information Service Corp., BT&T Network Corp., Vonics Philippines, Pacific Netcom Inc., Pastels Inc., Fiber Telecommunications Inc. and Textron Corp.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PEST CONTROL CHEMICALS FOR NFA REGION VIII

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of FIVE HUNDRED FORTY SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY NINE PESOS AND SIXTY CENTAVOS (P546,859.60) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the procurement contract of Pest Control Chemicals for NFA Region VIII for the year 2006. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for 2006 Pest Control Chemicals of NFA Region VIII. Delivery of GOODS is required within Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of Notice to Proceed with the following information and specifications:

Active Ingredients (Duly registered w/ FPA & officially tested, validated & recommended by NFA-TRDD for use to control stored product pests)	QUANTITY	UNIT	ABC/UNIT	TOTAL AMOUNT OF ABC (Php)
Lot 1 (FOGGING)				
A. Primiphos Methyl	40	Liters	P 2,443.64	P 97,745.60
B. Permethrin w/ Piperonyl				
Butoxide & S-Biol	11	Liters	P 3,600.00	P 39,600.00
C. Cyfluthrin	1	Liter	P 3,600.00	P 3,600.00
Total for LOT 1				**P 140,945.00**
Lot 2 (RESIDUAL/PROT. SPRAYING)				
A. Deltamethrin	660	25g/sachet	P 235.00	P 155,100.00
B. Cyfluthrin	160	20g/sachet	P 300.00	P 48,000.00
C. Permethrin	720	25g/sachet	P 235.00	P 169,200.00
Total for LOT 2				**P 372,300.00**
Lot 3 (FUMIGATION)				
A. Aluminum Phosphide	12	Tin can or Flsk w/ 333 RT	P 2,025.00/ Flask@333RT	P 24,300.00
Total for LOT 3				**P 24,300.00**
Lot 4 (TERMITE CONTROL)				
A. Chlorpyrifos	2	Liters	P 717.00	P 1,434.00
Total for LOT 4				**P 1,434.00**
Lot 5 (RODENT CONTROL)				
A. Coumatetralyl	8	Kgs (Dust or Tracking powd.	P 985.00	P 7,880.00
Total for LOT 5				**P 7,880.00**
GRAND TOTAL:				**P 546,859.60**

The Bidders may bid for as many lots as he is interested

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NFA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, NFA Regional Office No. VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte.

A complete set of Bidding Documents can be obtained by interested Bidders upon payment of non-refundable Bidding fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) in cash.

The Bidding Schedule is as follows:

	Date	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents	Oct. 23-31, 2006 (8:00 am-5:00 pm)	NFA RO8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Pre-Bidding Conference	Nov. 8, 2006 (1:30 pm)	NFA Conf. Rm Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Submission & Opening of Bids	Nov. 20, 2006 (1:30 pm)	-do-

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered during the bid opening and must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount of at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be bid in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Cash or Cashier's Check or Manager's Check (Cashier's or Manager's Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank issued in Tacloban City)	1% of ABC
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	2.5% of ABC

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority

The NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders, for any expense incurred in the preparation of bid documents.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager/ Chairman-RBAC, NFA RO8

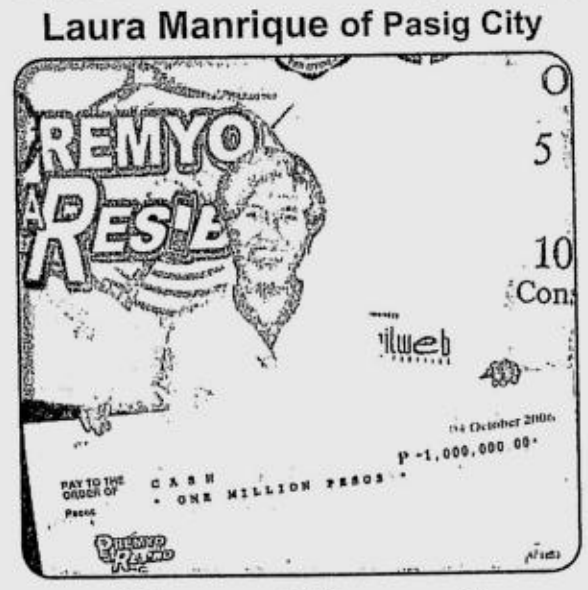
(PDI Oct 21 & 27 2006)

PREMYO SA RESIBO

PAGCOR

October Draw Milyonaryo

Laura Manrique of Pasig City



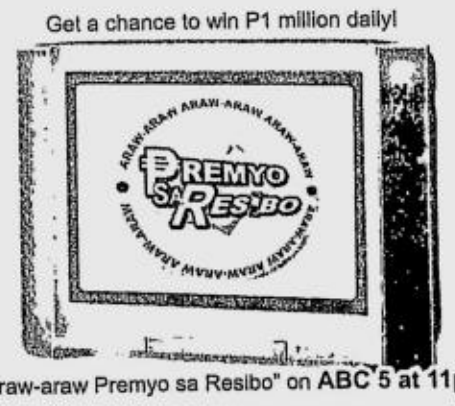
TEXT TO 9777
One text, One raffle entry
OR
For convenience...
9778
One text, Multiple raffle entries
(minimum P350 Receipt Amount)

"Fervent Prayers"

"Inaanyayahan ko po yung mga mamimili o mga consumers na kagaya ko lalo na po yung mga nanonood palagi sa TV, na humingi po kayo ng resibo everytime na mamimili kayo. At ine-encourage ko po kayo na mag text, malay niyo ho kayo na ang susunod na milyonaryo. Ako po hindi ko ho akalain na nandito ako ngayon. Maski ho hatinggabi minsan, yung resibo tinetext ko bago ako matulog. Tsaka fervent prayers po talaga.Talagang hiningi ko po na maka recover ako sa financial problems na kinakaharap ko. Pinagdasal ko po talaga yun."

"Bago pa ako dumating sa sitwasyon na ito iniisip ko na talaga bumili ng farm. Kasi hindi naman tayo habang buhay na nagtratrabaho, may retirement age tayo. Gusto ko talaga mag invest sa agricultural para may pupuntahan ako pag retire ko."

Get a chance to win P1 million daily!



Watch "Araw-araw Premyo sa Resibo" on ABC 5 at 11pm.

The next Premyo Sa Resibo draw will be on November 3, 2006, where another five P1 million and ten P100,000 consolation prizes are at stake. For this draw, Official Receipts from Sept. 1 to Nov. 2, 2006 are qualified.

For inquiries, Call 338-9777 or visit www.premyosaresibo.com.ph

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 Mobile Phone: (+63) 928 4102732
e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Rehabilitation of Chiller and Storage Freezer

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P1,430,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the rehabilitation of chiller and storage freezer including the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of seven (7) air conditioning units as follows:*

Item No. No.	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Airconditioning units	7	700,000.00
2	Rehabilitation of Chiller		340,000.00
3	Rehabilitation of Storage Freezer		390,000.00
	TOTAL		1,430,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *rehabilitation of chiller and storage freezer including the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of seven (7) air conditioning units.* Delivery is required within 60 calendar days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00 in the form of *CASH.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 30, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th Floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on November 13, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 13, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity — *National Food Authority*
Contact Person — *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address — *Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No. — *(632) 455-2758*
Mobile Phone — *(+63) 928 4102732*
E-mail address — *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website — *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – October 14 & 21, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
TEL. NOS. (053-323-3075, 323-3084)
FAX NO. 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION/ELIGIBILITY & TO BID
PROCUREMENT FOR SECURITY SERVICES CY 2007 FOR NFA REGION VIII

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites all interested Private Security Agencies (PSAs) to register, apply eligibility and bid for the provision of Security Services for Calendar Year 2007 at NFA Regional Office No. VIII. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. The service contract to be bid shall be divided into lots with one province treated as one (1) Lot, to wit

LOT	PROVINCE	NO. OF SG	APPROVED ABC	BIDDING FEE
1	NORTHERN LEYTE	24	P 3,731,889.60	P 7,500.00
2	SOUTHERN LEYTE	10	1,554,954.00	3,000.00
3	BILIRAN	4	621,981.60	1,500.00
4	WESTERN SAMAR	9	1,399,458.60	3,000.00
5	NORTHERN SAMAR	19	2,954,412.60	6,000.00
6	EASTERN SAMAR	12	1,865,944.80	4,000.00
	TOTAL	78	P12,128,641.20	

The application forms, eligibility requirements can be secured and submitted at the NFA Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of non-refundable application fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)

Bidding Documents shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee per lot as stated above. The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

DATE	ACTIVITY
Oct. 23-Nov. 3, 2006 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)	Issuance of Registration and Eligibility Requirements (NFA-ROVIII)
Nov. 8, 2006 (5:00 PM)	Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents
November 6-13, 2006 (8:00 AM-5:00 PM)	Issuance of Certificate of Registration & Notice of Eligibility/Bid Documents
November 14, 2006 (2:00 PM)	Pre-Bidding Conference (NFA-RO8 Conference Room)
November 27, 2006 (9:30 AM)	Submission and Opening of Bids (NFA-RO8 Conference Room)

All particulars relative to eligibility requirements, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and other applicable rules and regulations

Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective Bidder Owner (for sole ownership) and/or resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporation) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids shall be required

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept on such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager II/
Chairman, RBAC, NFA-ROVIII

(PDI–Oct. 21 & 27, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	Supply, delivery, installation and configuration of the following items per BSP's technical specifications and scope of work: Item 1 – Seven hundred fifty-five (755) units PC DESKTOP Item 2 – Seven hundred fifty-six (756) units PC LAPTOP
Approved Budget for the Contract	Item 1 – P58,890,000.00 Item 2 – P71,820,000.00
Delivery Period	Within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the approved Contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract of each item. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	20 October to 2 November 2006 (up to 2:00 pm)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	3 November 2006, 2:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Bids	21 November 2006, 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P29,450.00 for Item 1 and P35,910.00 for Item 2 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 21, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
ORIENTAL SUPPORT SERVICES, INC. 27/F, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Marek Tamm	Chief Technology Officer
ETELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, INC. 20/F, Cyberone Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Ajay Bagga	Workforce Manager
JHORRAN SIKH TRADING CORP. 826 Samar St., Sampaloc, Manila	Harjinder Singh	Marketing
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F, JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St. Madrigal Bus. Park, Ayala Alabang Muntinlupa City	Xin Gao	Senior Lead Civil Engineer
ALFA WAN TAI INC. 2407 T. Mapua cor. Blumentritt St. Manila	Wensheng Wang	Assistant Manager
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F, Robinsons Summit Center 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Sungjin Choi	Korean Client Support
BH CENTER, INC. 1547 Adriatico St., Ermita, Manila	Chang Geun Kwak	Vice President

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 21, 2006)

FOR HIRING

RISK MANAGEMENT ASSISTANTS

(Makati-based company)

- Must be fluent in Mandarin, English and Tagalog
- Male or Female
- 21 to 35 years old
- College graduate
- Computer literate (Microsoft office and Internet)
- Able to work night shifts and weekends

OFFER: 22,000.00 starting salary

Call – 812-3313 look for Mae

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Fee is P600 Inclusive of snakes.

For seat reservation text your name @0917-7387311 or 0917-7387338

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

Male or Female
Accounting Graduate
With at least 2 years experience

Pls. contact:
Adrian
0917-6248668

ATTENTION: Residents of Metro Manila

TOA CORPORATION

is in urgent need of the following Manpower:

• CIVIL ENGINEER

Male, 25-35 years old
Computer Skill (MS Word, MS Office, Excel & Auto CAD
Fluent in English (Oral & Written)
Must be Licensed Civil Engineer

For Inquiry, Please look for: Mr. Maeda/Ms. Maribel at 3F-A, First Life Center, 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City w/ Tel. No. (02) 892-2809/817-1870/816-3560

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CP#09178511464

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST STAFF-RTVM
MALACAÑANG, MANILA

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Media and Communications Secretariat of the 12th ASEAN Summit* through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Presidential Broadcast Staff – RTVM is inviting suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid the hereunder project:

Procurement of Various Photographic Equipment & Accessories:

5 pcs. Digital Camera EOS-1D Mark IIN Digital
1 pc. Digital Camera EOS 30D Digital
4 pcs. Wide Lens EF 17-55mm f/t 2.8 IS USM for Digital Camera
2 pcs. Wide Lens 24-70mm f/t 2.8 USM for Digital Camera
4 pcs. Zoom Lens 70-200mm f/t 2.8 USM for Digital Camera
3 pcs. Battery Ni-MH Pack NP-E3 for Digital Camera
6 pcs. Speedlite Flash (580EX) for Digital Camera
21 pcs. Lens Filter 77mm UV Glass (CF7038UV) for Digital Camera
275 packs Lithium Battery for Digital Camera

Delivery Date : On or before December 1, 2006
Approved Budget for the Contract : Php2,479,850.00
Source of Funding: ASEAN Fund

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Date	Time	Place
1) Issuance of Bid Documents	October 14, 2006	10:00 am	PBS-RTVM
2) Pre-Bidding Conference	October 26, 2006	10:00 am	PBS-RTVM
3) Last Day of Submission and Opening of Bids	November 8, 2006	10:00 am	PBS-RTVM

Bid Documents including details of specification will be available at the PBS-RTVM Procurement Section of the Admin & Finance Division (c/o Mr. Cyrus M. Reputana) Tel. Nos. 734-5681 / 735-6187 to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php500.00 to the Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM Cashier.

The Presidential Broadcast Staff-RTVM assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MELBA B. ALIGAEN
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Oct. 21, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Davao del Norte
CITY OF TAGUM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Reference/Solicitation No. 314080 / 06-026

The Local Government of Tagum City thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of:

	Particulars	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
1	One (1) Unit Reconditioned 6 wheeler Self Loading Truck w/ Boom (2.90 ton load capacity) Japan Made	P 1,385,000.00	LBP Loan
2.	One (1) Unit Reconditioned 6-wheeler Manlifter Truck w/ steel Railings & Stabilizer Jack Japan Made	P 988,000.00	LBP Loan
3.	One (1) Unit Reconditioned Forklift, Automatic 3 ton load capacity & Japan Made	P 1,775,000.00	LBP Loan
4.	One (1) Unit Reconditioned Wheel Loader Bucket: 4:40 cu.m. Japan Made	P 6,995,000.00	LBP Loan
5.	One (1) Unit Reconditioned 6 wheeler Truck Mounted Backhoe, Bucket - 0.18 cu.m. Swing - 180 deg., Japan Made	P 1,395,000.00	LBP Loan
6.	Four (4) Units Reconditioned 10 - wheeler Dump Truck Double Differential with Hi-sidings, Japan Made	P 6,000,000.00	LBP Loan
7.	Two (2) Units Reconditioned 6 - wheeler Dump Truck With Hi-sidings, Japan Made	P 1,956,000.00	LBP Loan
8.	One (1) Unit Reconditioned Mini Back Hoe Crawler Type Bucket - 0.36 cu.m., Operating Weight - 6,260 kgs	P 1,688,000.00	LBP Loan
9.	One (1) Unit Reconditioned 6-wheeler Stake Body Cargo Truck, Japan Made	P 996,500.00	LBP Loan
10.	One (1) Unit Reconditioned 10-wheeler Self Loading Cargo Truck, Double Differential with Outrigger & wings, Japan Made	P 2,388,000.00	LBP Loan
11.	One (1) Unit Reconditioned 6 x 2, 6-wheeler Lube Truck, Complete with water accessories & water tank, USA Made	P 3,700,000.00	LBP Loan
12.	One (1) Unit Brand New Truck Type Loader Weight - 17,300 kgs., Bucket - 1.50 cu.m., Made in China	P10,000,000.00	LBP Loan

Calendar of Activities:

	Particulars	Date/Time	Venue
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	November 3, 2006 – 8:00A.M.-12:00NN	BAC Secretariat
2.	Pre-Bid Conference	November 3, 2006 – 1:00 P.M.	ABC Conference Hall
3.	Dropping of Bids	November 20, 2006 – 8:00-12:00 NN	BAC Secretariat
4.	Opening of Bids	November 20, 2006 – 2:00-5:00 P.M.	ABC Conference Hall
5.	Bid Evaluation	November 21, 2006	BAC Secretariat
6.	Post Qualification	November 22-24, 2006	BAC Secretariat
7.	Notice of Award	November 27, 2006	BAC Secretariat

Bid Documents will be only available to PRE-QUALIFIED AND ACCREDITED BIDDERS upon payment of non-refundable amount fixed by the Bids and Awards Committee. All bids shall be accompanied with a bid security equivalent to 1% for CASH BOND based on the TOTAL AMOUNT of the APPROVED BUDGET of the items.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat office at telephone numbers, (084)-218-3639, and (084)-218-2349 or visit the BAC Secretariat Office at 2nd floor of SP Building, Bonifacio St., Tagum City.

The Bids and Awards Committee a.) reserves the right to reject any or all bids; b.) waive any defect or formality; c.) declare failure of bidding if there is *prima facie* evidence of any prohibited act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies any or all bidding procedures to the disadvantage of the government. d.) assumes no obligation whatsoever to indemnify the bidder(s) for any expense that they may incur in the preparation of their bids; and e.) to accept only such bid(s)established to be the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ROLAND G. TUMANDA
Acting City Legal Officer
BAC-Chairman

(PDI – October 21 & 28, 2006)

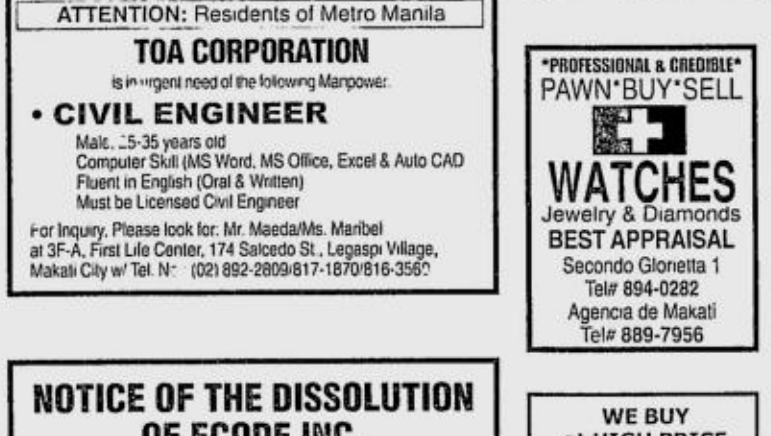
NOTICE OF THE DISSOLUTION OF ECODE INC.
BY SHORTENING CORPORATE TERM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON AUGUST 31, 2006, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ECODE INC. APPROVED THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATIONS CORPORATE TERM TO END EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 01, 2006. THE APPLICATION OF AMENDMENT OF THE CORPORATION ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION SHORTEN ITS CORPORATE TERM WILL BE FILED WITH SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION. THIS SHALL SERVE AS NOTICE TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED OF THE DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION BY SHORTENING ITS CORPORATE TERM

VERA STO. TOMAS
CORPORATE SECRETARY

(PDI – October 14, 21 & 28, 2006)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES 722-1144 • 722-1155



THE Jollibee Visayas-Mindanao unit recently forged an agreement with Suzuki Philippines for their joint promotion "Jollibee Meals for Suzuki Wheels." On-going in all Jollibee outlets in the Vis-Min area, "Jollibee Meals for Suzuki Wheels" will raffle off three brand new silver Suzuki APVs to lucky patrons of the fast food chain. Signing the agreement are (from left) Lyn Calderon, Suzuki Philippines, Inc. General Manager for Finance and Administration; and Vierna D. Camonas, Jollibee Foods Corp. Marketing Services Manager for Visayas and Mindanao. With them is Nerza Marie Del Rosario (standing), Advertising and Promotions Manager for Suzuki Phils.

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(at the back of Chinese Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Manila)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the President
COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Council for the Welfare of Children invites registered suppliers and printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items

Item/Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Deadline/Opening of Bids	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
1. IT and other related equipment	Php 6.274M	November 14, 2006	Php 2,000.00
2. Printing of 16 Research Studies	Php 450,000.00	October 31, 2006	Php 500.00

2. The Bid Documents shall be available at the Council for the Welfare of Children-Bids and Awards Committee (CWC-BAC) Secretariat starting October 19, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the open competitive bidding procedure using non-dsicretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR-Part A of R.A. 9184, otherwise know as the "Government Procurement Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and the citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 9184.
4. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at No. 10 Apo Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City at 9:00 a.m. of November 14, 2006 for IT and other related Equipment and October 31, 2006 for Printing of 16 Studies. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount stated in the tender document in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) reserves the right to accept, reject any Bid or to annul the bidding process, at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, CWC Building No. 10 Apo Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City at Tel. No. 740-8864/711-1141 or visit our website at www.cwc.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **MA. ELENA S. CARABALLO, CESO III**
Deputy Executive Director and
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 21, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Regional Office 6
Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 329-2165/320-6246
Fax No. (033) 320-4764

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ***National Food Authority, Region 6***, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified grains handling services contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of grains handling services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Region VI for Calendar Year 2007.

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	ESTIMATED VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (in bag of 50 kgs)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	Bidding Fee
1	Aklan	48,900	P 184,842.00	P1,000.00
2	Antique	58,140	P 219,769.20	P1,000.00
3	Capiz	108,650	P 410,697.00	P1,500.00
4	Iloilo & Guimaras	271,300	P 1,025,514.00	P3,500.00
5	Negros Occidental	220,000	P 831,600.00	P3,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Octo. 20 - Nov. 2, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	November 3, 2006 - 9:30 AM
3. Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Documents	November 15, 2006 - 9:30 AM

The National Food Authority, Region 6 assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The ***National Food Authority, Region 6*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 21 & 28, 2006)

2006 Toyota Classics in Manila this October

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES (TMP) CORporation will stage the 2006 Toyota Classics at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Oct. 24. This year, the Toyota Classics will feature the world-renowned Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Tatsuya Shimono, with Japanese flutist Ayako Takagi, and Filipino Pianist Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz. Ticket proceeds of this year's concert will be donated to the National Center for Transportation Studies of the University of the Philippines. The 2006 Toyota Classics TMP's way of celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Philippines-Japan Diplomatic Relations.

This year's tour—the 17th since TMC began holding the concerts in 1990—continues to aim at contributing to the culture of music in Asia. The event will also be conducted in cooperation with Toyota distributors in Asia, with proceeds from each concert donated to local charities.

Ayako Takagi

Ayako Takagi is among Japan's most sought-after young flutists, thanks to an attractive combination of technique and style that has won her an enthusiastic following. Her numerous awards include grand prizes at the 17th Japan Winds Competition (2000) and the 70th Japan Music Competition (2001), as well as the Nippon Steel Music Award (2001). Other awards she has received include the Mainichi Shimbun All Japan Student Music Competition of Tokyo (first prize, 1995), the Japan Flute Convention Competition (first prize and audience award, 1999), the Kobe International Flute Competition (2005, third prize) and the Jean-Pierre Rampal International Flute Competition.

Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz is the most internationally-awarded Filipino concert pianist. He was a prizewinner in the Jose Iturbi (Valencia), the Pilar Bayona (Zaragoza), the Maria Canals (Barcelona), and the Jaen International Piano Competitions in Spain, the Frinna Awerbuch International Piano Competition in New York, the Rina Sala Gallo International Piano Competition in Milan, and the International Competition for Piano and Orchestra in Sicily. He has also won First Prize in the Bergen Philharmonic Solo Competition, the Haddonfield Symphony Solo Competition, the Queens Symphony Soloist Competition, the New York State Music Teachers Association, and the Five Towns, Great Neck, and Port Washington Piano Competitions.

Cruz is a member of the Piano Faculty at the University of the Philippines College of Music. As a mentor, he has produced prize-winning students, while as an artistic director and concert producer, he is one of the pioneers in the renaissance of Classical Music awareness in the country.

NFA offers training on food labeling requirements of the United States

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY'S FOOD Development Center will conduct a training course on the "Food Labeling Requirements of the United States" on Nov. 23-24 at the FDC Compound, FTI Complex, Tagig City.

The training course aims to upgrade the understanding of participants from the food industry on the general food labeling requirements of the United States for packaged foods, help food industries develop a capability to use nutrient content and health claims for a product label and draft a product label and the nutrition information on the label that will meet the United States food labeling requirements.

The course fee is P5,250.00 per participant inclusive of a training manual, lunches, snacks and a shuttle bus service from Ayala Center, Makati City to FDC and back. Please make checks payable to the Food Development Center, National Food Authority.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Amelia S. Bautista, Food Development Center, National Food Authority, FTI Complex, Tagig City at telephone nos. 838-4015; 838-4561; 838-4478 and Fax Nos. 838-4016 and 838-4692.

More CLASSIFIEDS AD on P.B6
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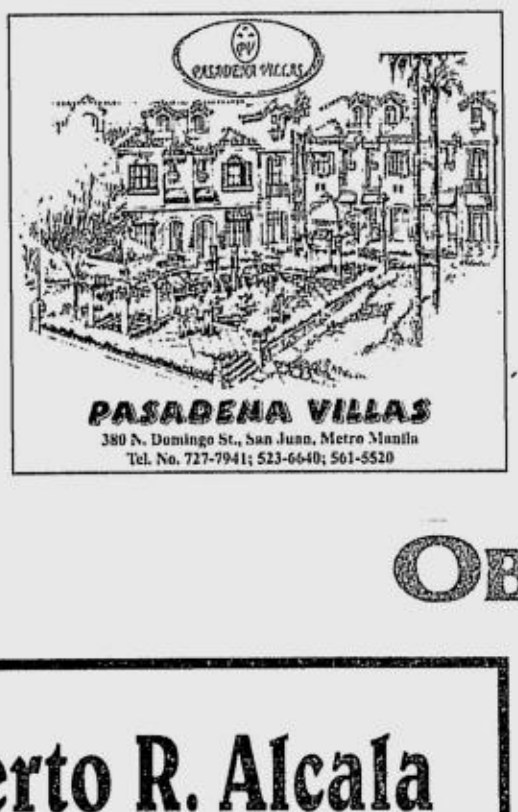

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OBITUARIES

Eriberto R. Alcala
"Titing"

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 10, 2006
in Sun Valley, California, U.S.A.

His wife **Erlinda**; daughter **Nikki**; son **Mikko**; parents **Juanita** and **Iñigo Alcala**; brothers **Clarito** and **Marianito**; sister-in-law **Rowena**; nieces **Aya** and **AC** and his nephew **Antonio Yogi** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body will arrive today, October 21, 2006 and will lie in state at their residence in Candelaria, Quezon.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 22, 2006 after the 1:00 p.m. service at San Pedro Memorial Park in Candelaria, Quezon.

TOMAS OLIVER DEL CASTILLO, JR.

of

ORTEGA, DEL CASTILLO, BACORRO, ODULIO, CALMA & CARBONELL

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 18, 2006.

His partners and staff request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora Ave., Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Nacional.

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It will be published on November 1, 2006 and will be distributed with the Inquirer. Free copies will also be given to select memorial parks.

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"In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places. I am indeed going to prepare a place for you and then I shall come back to take you with me that where I am you also may be." **John 14: 2-3**

PAUL LACHICA CHANG

returned to his Father on October 19, 2006,
feast of St. Paul of the Cross at the age of 61.

His loving wife, **Jessieline** and his children **Paulynn**; **Mike** and wife **Jenny**, and **Mark**; his brothers and sister, **Thomas Jr.**, **Antonio**, **Dolly** (†), **Alberto**; in-laws, **Leonardo**, **Adolfo** and **Teodoro Concepcion** and their families, relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of Paul's soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City with Masses at 8:00 p.m. each day. The funeral Mass will be held on Monday, October 23, at 9:00 a.m. Cremation follows immediately after.

BUSINESS

Closer ties between Manila, Taipei pushed

Experts want easier flow of goods, persons, services

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ECONOMISTS, INVESTORS AND other experts yesterday pushed for freer cross-border movement of capital, goods, services and persons to help develop a growth corridor that links special economic zones in both territories.

In a forum held to discuss how to maximize business opportunities through the Philippines-Taiwan Economic Corridor, experts said there were obstacles that needed to be overcome if the potential of matching the industries, labor force and other resources of the two parties were to be unleashed.

Taipei and Manila signed last December a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of the corridor that links the ecozones of Kaohsiung, Subic and Clark.

Winston Conrad Padojinog, an economist with the University of Asia and the Pacific, said barriers in the Philippines include the high costs of electricity and inter-island shipping; red-tape and "unofficial" expenses; weak legal protection of intellectual property rights; and the frequent intervention of the judiciary as well as the slow pace of judicial decisions.

Padojinog said the Philippines' advantage was its deep pool of labor and its available land; telecommunications facilities and the air and sea transport infrastructure already in place.

"(On the other hand,) Taiwan's shortage of skilled workers and of available land for industrial use; the high cost of low-end manufacturing; and over-weighted portfolio of investments in mainland China were driving offshore investments," he added.

Romulo Manlapig, special trade representative with the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Taipei, said major areas that the two governments were working on covered the harmonization of customs procedures needed if goods could be moved as freely and efficiently as possible.

"We also need a quarantine protocol for certain products that we hope to be able to set up in the next few months," Manlapig said.

He added that Taiwanese firms needed some push, such as the establishment of Philippine regulations that allow greater cross-border movement of white-collar and blue-collar workers.

A related effort concerns talks on the restoration of direct flights between Taipei and Subic and the establishment of a new route between Taipei and Laoag City and a connecting Laoag-Subic run.

"Policies that aimed at lowering the cost financing are also needed considering that interest rates in Taiwan are lower than (what we have here)," Manlapig added.

Chao-jen Hseng, vice director of the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research, said broadening the measures of "incentives" such as greater access for Taiwanese goods to the Philippine market would be key to realizing the corridor.

Card firms set up credit info bureau

By Michelle V. Remo

CREDIT CARD COMPANIES HAVE set up their own credit information bureau to protect themselves from delinquent card holders.

Rolando Tanchanco, chair of the Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP), said the credit information bureau has so far blacklisted 500,000 of the estimated 5.5 million credit card holders in the country.

The credit information bureau was officially launched last year, Tanchanco said, but CCAP had just recently fully operationalized it for the benefit of its 15 members, which include AIG, Bankard and Citibank.

"The bureau will allow members to share information on delinquent customers. Once they know an applicant is on the black list, it is up to them (credit card company) to decide (whether to approve the application)" he told reporters yesterday on the sidelines of the 25th anniversary conference of CCAP at Shangri-La Edsa hotel.

He said a credit card holder is placed on the credit information bureau's blacklist if his or her liability, regardless of amount, remains unpaid for at least 150 days from the due date.

Tanchanco said the CCAP's credit information bureau was different from the one proposed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

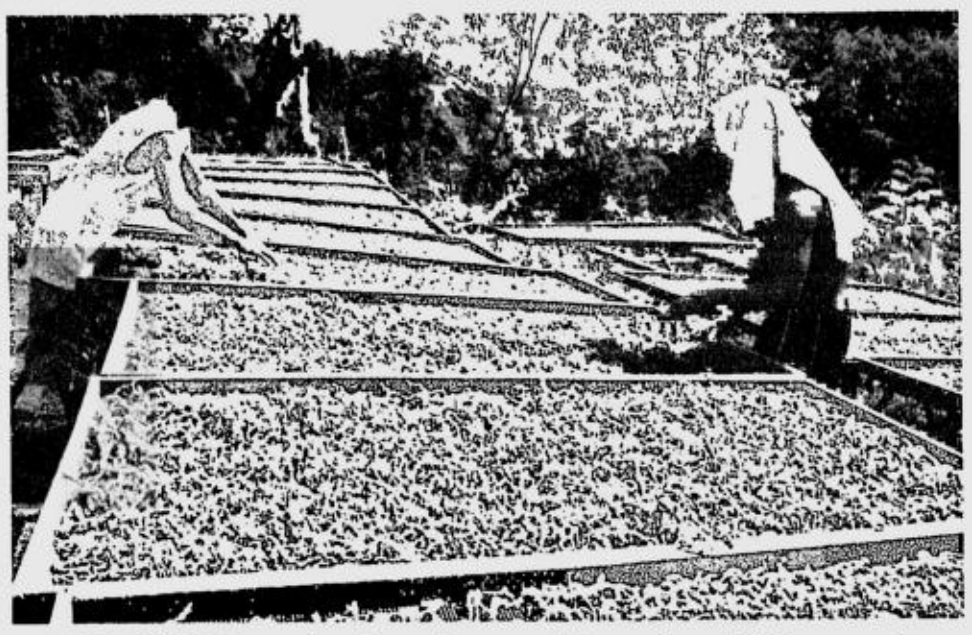
CCAP's only has a blacklist of delinquent credit card holders, while the one proposed by the BSP and the BAP will have both a black-list and positive list of people that engage in banking and credit transactions in general.

The establishment of a credit information bureau is part of the agenda of the government and concerned private sector members to develop the country's financial sector.

Tanchanco said CCAP's own credit information bureau may possibly link up with the BSP and BAP's proposed bureau once the latter is established.

He said CCAP supports the BAP and the BSP's efforts to lobby for the immediate passage of the bill seeking to create a credit information bureau. Its establishment will put the Philippines a step closer to making its financial sector conform with international best practices.

CCAP said credit card transactions hit P200 billion last year.



RICE CRACKERS. Two workers dry semi-processed rice crackers at their cooperative factory in Barangay Sancagulis, Bayambang, Pangasinan. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

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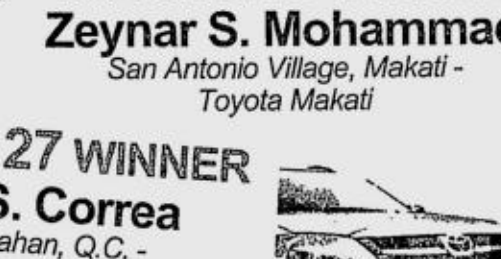

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Nangka, Marikina City - Toyota Commonwealth

SEPTEMBER 24 WINNER
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San Joaquin, Pasig City - Toyota Shaw Ortigas

SEPTEMBER 23 WINNER
Farnel V. Gonzales
Merville, Parañaque - Toyota Pasong Tamo

Grand Draw: Metro Manila winners were drawn last October 7, 2006 at the Function Room of Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation, Pasig City. Metro Manila winners were drawn last September 29, 2006 at the 6th Floor, Tower International Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Mindanao winners were drawn last October 9, 2006 at the 3rd Floor, G Tower International Center, H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Grand Draw was held at the Function Room of Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation.

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TOYOTA moving forward

RP to host Asia-Pacific real estate summit

By Charles E. Buban

IN ITS 57 YEARS OF EXISTENCE, THE International Real Estate Federation, more popularly known by its French acronym Fiabci, has built an enviable reputation as the authentic voice of international real estate.

The federation is not only international—with 100 real estate professional organizations and 1.5 million real estate professionals coming from 60 countries—but also multidisciplinary since anyone involved in real estate can belong whether they are brokers, counselors, lawyers, appraisers, financiers, architects, developers, contractors or investors.

No wonder Fiabci has special status at the United Nations where it is recognized as the voice of the private sector when matters of real estate are considered.

Next month, its chapter here in the Philippines will be hosting Fiabci Asia-Pacific Regional Summit from Nov. 10 to 11 at Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City.

11 countries

The summit, chaired by Dato' Alan Tong Kok Mau, will be participated in by real estate industry leaders from 11 member-countries—Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

"With the globalization of the real estate market, Fiabci has long focused on real estate market indicators for investment across the countries comprising the membership of the federation. For its part, Fiabci-Philippines will take this opportunity to access the federation's network in order to match our membership to other members in the Asia-Pacific region who may be looking beyond their own borders to try to realize higher returns by taking advantage of unique opportunities that the Philippine market could offer," explains Bobby Sy, president of Fiabci-Philippines.

Sy will be leading the Philippine investment forum on Nov. 11 and shall discuss the country situationer on several investment hotspots and growth corridor.

Perspective

Together with Sy, renowned architect Felino Palafox Jr. who is Fiabci-Philippines chair, will provide summit participants perspectives on area for urban growth and renewal in the Philippine is his piece titled "Postcards from the Future."

Other speakers for the summit are National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) director general Romulo Neri, Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) director general Lilia de Lima, Philippine Tourism Authority chair Robert Dean Barbers, Philippine Retirement Authority chair Edgardo Aglipay, and Philippine Retirement Industry president Dr. Ernesto Ordoñez.

"Indeed, Fiabci-Philippines will take this opportunity to maximize this unique networking opportunity as we would like to hear the experiences of Malaysia and Singapore on real estate investment thrusts and that of Australia, Malaysia and Thailand on the retirement industry, in the hope that the country, through its local real estate developers and concerned key government agencies, can learn from these leading players in the Asia-Pacific region," Falafox says.

Brittany BEAUTIFUL

A MAGNIFICENCE BORN OF THE OLD WORLD.
A ROMANCE WITH COURTYARDS...
GLORIOUS WITH THE RISING AND SETTING SUN.

Photos by Wig Tysmans

This is COURTYARDS OF PORTOFINO. Beautiful.

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The cul-de-sac advantage

CUL-DE-SAC (kul-də-sak), THE OXFORD American Dictionary defines it as a street with an opening at one end only—or a blind alley. For real estate sellers, it is often imagined as a small circular road ringed by a few choice lots. For property buyers, it is a private little corner of peace and exclusivity.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

If you ask a real estate broker in the United States for a tip on where it is better to buy a house, you could get an odd answer. "Check the speed limit along the road that the property is facing. The lower the speed limit, the better to buy." Huh?! However, the answer does make perfect sense.

Higher value

If you compare two similar houses in the same community, you may notice a higher value placed on the one located along a road less traveled, where speed limits are at the minimum. In addition, it is these low-speed limit roads in residential areas that traffic and security patrols monitor more often. That illustrates the premium they put on privacy and safety.

Although getting a speeding ticket is rare here in our country (except of course on inspired days at the NLEX) and speed limit signs are hardly ever posted along minor roads, the point remains that there are advantages of buying property where vehicular traffic is low. Less traffic means the streets are safer for your kids and jogging need not be a harrowing experience. It is less worrisome to park on or back out of your driveway. As a corollary, it means less noise, less dust, less pollution.

DIGITAL rendition of the Avida Pampanga development showing the cul-de-sac advantage.

Some residential developments are already pressing forward on this concept, where safety is of the utmost concern. In the past, developers enclosed subdivisions in order to manage traffic and security in residential areas. Now, to augment the advantages of the gated zones, creative developers are employing specialized site layouts. Instead of the usual rectangular blocked development with linear through roads, Ayala Land's Avida has applied the cul-de-sac concept in its new project in San Fernando, Pampanga.

A park in the middle

Culs-de-sac differs from the usual streets by having a single entry serving a cluster of houses, provided with a loop at the end so vehicles can maneuver with ease. This developer took it a step further by creating a park in the middle for a greener environment. It is like a compound with your own private driveway that only those who live within and their guests would use.

To optimize the potential of this idea, porches and terraces were integrated in front of the houses facing the park. The design fosters a sense of expansiveness and welcome, which is only possible in an environment of peace and privacy.

A cul-de-sac setup such as this increases the margin of safety considerably. Vehicular flow is controlled so that there is no point in speeding. Security situation improves since access to each cul-de-sac is limited and can be policed without difficulty. Strangers would easily be spotted. A special sense of unity is likewise encouraged, with the residents being, as it is, a community within a community.

My brother's house in Cleveland, Ohio is also in a cul-de-sac. On a recent visit there, I was so pleased to see the kids from neighboring homes playing together. It seemed like a beautiful spot to raise kids and a great place to build friendships. That is also how I envision the Avida Pampanga development to be, an ideal place to raise a family—quiet, safe and clean.

Brittany puts value in beauty

WHILE IT IS OFTEN REPEATED that land is the perfect investment, the rate of its appreciation is dependent on esthetics as much as market forces. When it comes to property, beauty is never just skin deep.

This is precisely why maverick real estate developer Brittany Corp. has carved a niche for itself as the developer of beautiful properties. Its impressive track record consists of some of the country's most inspired high-end residential communities. Beauty does not compromise, and neither does Brittany.

Brittany Bay, Portofino, Georgia Club, Caribe at The Islands, and CrossWinds are among the most beautiful and masterfully planned communities in the country. Every single one can lay claim to the much-coveted title *obra maestra* (masterpiece). And all the properties are enjoying more than substantial returns with regard to the appreciation of its value.

Churning out only the best

"Beauty can only come from within," said Brittany president Jing Serrano. "Our properties are beautiful precisely because everything we put into it is beautiful too. Our people are very passionate and committed to churning out only the best. The craftsmanship of every element is guided by the principles of excellence. Even the landscaping is taken care of by a resident horticulturist who not only takes care of the greenery but ensures that each property remains distinct and in keeping with their respective themes. From conception to execution, no detail is too small for us to demand that only the finest would be used."

Brittany means beautiful homes and as of late, even the revered arbiters of beauty have come to notice. In an unprecedented collaboration, one that speaks volumes of the property developer's ingénue, Brittany has partnered its properties with the country's finest photographers today. Each development was photographed with a single word to guide the photographers: beautiful.

Participating in what has been dubbed as the photographers' project are Bien Bautista, Jun de Leon, George Tapan, Wig Tysmans and Romy Vitug—men whose authority on the subject of beauty is unquestioned. Teaming up with Brittany, the results are some of the most breathtaking images of any local property ever taken.

San Francisco inspiration

Clicking the camera for Brittany Bay is Bien Bautista who chose the property because of its San Francisco inspiration. A short distance away from the Sucat Interchange on SLEX and a mere 20 minutes away from the central business district of Makati, Brittany Bay is a 60-hectare development that looks to the famed Bay area for its architecture and design. The neo-Victorian themed community of neighborhoods offers single-detached homes, Victorianne Duettos and Quadrilles as well as low- to mid-rise condominiums, among others.

The Brittany Bay development is being undertaken in partnership with the landed Marfori-Posadas family. With P25 billion set aside for its development in a span of 10 years, Brittany Bay is envisioned to become the largest urban development project of the company to date—larger in scope and scale than any current development including Eastwood, Araneta Center and Newport.

A BREATHTAKING Swiss sunset beckons at Tagaytay's CrossWinds.

BIEN Bautista discovers beauty in the quiet of the night at Brittany Bay.

BEAUTIFUL butterflies are part of the serene neighborhood of Georgia Club. PHOTO BY JUN DE LEON

Romance of Italian living

Wig Tysmans is behind the lens for the Portofino development. Inspired by the romance of Italian living, Portofino is a 300-hectare development located along the Las Piñas-Cavite, Laguna, Muntinlupa Link Road. Just 30 minutes away from the central business district of Makati, within its boundaries is a world all its own.

This masterfully planned development consists of several communities including Portofino Heights, WideLots of Portofino, Courtyards I and Courtyards II of Portofino, Portofino South, The Masters' Collection and Amore of Portofino. All are Italian-inspired but each one with very distinct features that speak of charm, grandeur and romance that would cater to the various needs of different homeowners.

Jun de Leon took on the challenge for Georgia Club. Located in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, this gated enclave is inspired by the privileged lifestyle of the American South. Combining the old-world charm with the world-class development, Georgia Club is made possible through the partnership between the Quiros family of Sta. Rosa and Brittany. Within this 30-hectare property is a community that recreates southern architecture through symmetrical façades, gabled roofs, high ceilings and distinct porches.

Inspired by island resorts

Romy Vitug was paired with Caribe at The Islands. Bound by the Molino-Paliparan Highway and Governor's Drive, this Caribbean-themed community takes inspiration from island resorts. It features single-story, sprawling homes intended for families who clearly believe in the pursuit of happiness in their everyday existence. Its unique design elements include colorful, textured exterior walls with gabled façades, concrete roof tiles, arched windows and verandas and the cupola. Properties within this development range from P2.5 to P7.3 million for custom home sites and P6.8 to P15.3 million for single story homes.

George Tapan was tasked to point his camera toward CrossWinds. A Swiss-themed weekend retreat, CrossWinds' distinctive architecture incorporates various elements such as overhanging eaves, wood patterns and wide balconies set against the lush landscape of Tagaytay. It offers single-detached residences, Swiss Quadrilles, the Grand Quartier, and Deux Pointe—all of which are designed to cater to the needs of the weekend warrior.

"We are honored that the contemporary masters of Philippine photography all agreed to take part in what we could only describe as a beautiful venture," Serrano said.

Living amid nature's bounty

FOR MANY CITY DWELLERS, MOVING to Ayala Greenfield Estates can prove to be a refreshing change. Life in this enchanting haven moves in a slow and stately pace; after all, Ayala Greenfield Estates is a place to be savored. Here, one can take—and would likely need—all the time in the world to soak up the sights and sounds of nature at its grandest.

"If you are used to living in Metro Manila, Ayala Greenfield Estates would seem like a different world with its fresh air and lush greenery," said Ayala Greenfield Estates project development manager Pol Tanco.

Unique living environment

A project of Ayala Land Premier, Ayala Greenfield Estates is an exclusive, residential community that offers a unique living environment to nature lovers and energetic sports enthusiasts alike. Given its choice location in Calamba, Laguna, this idyllic village provides gorgeous vistas of Mt. Makiling, Laguna de Bay and Tagaytay Ridge.

"The residents love the natural setting, which is enhanced by the fact that the village is located right beside Mt. Makiling, which is a forest reserve," Tanco related.

The sprawling 350-hectare community has been divided into five different phases, each with different characters and features. "We took advantage of the rolling terrain and high elevation to maximize views, and because the phases have different orientations, the views can differ in each phase," Tanco shared.

The Woodland Trails, for example, offers a view quite unlike anyone can have in other areas of Ayala Greenfield Estates. Because it is located right beside the 15-hectare Nature Park, this newest phase provides residents with majestic vistas of the lush woodlands. A large portion of this phase is also allocated for forest parks, which will ring the perimeter of Woodland Trails.

Amenities

Because Ayala Greenfield Estates showcases the grandeur of nature, Ayala Land Premier made sure that all the amenities in the residential community complemented the natural setting of the place.

The Nature Park, for one, was developed as an exciting place where residents and their families can have picnics, go camping, fishing, biking or kite flying, or just enjoy a leisurely stroll. Because of its proximity to the park, Woodland Trails was designed to have expansive tree-lined hiking trails that meander through that lush landscape.

The trails at the new phase are also wide enough to accommodate golf carts that would make their way to and from Ayala Greenfield Estates' championship golf course, designed by world-renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones. The 18-hole, par 72, all-weather course is right beside the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club, which houses the Verandah dining hall and will soon feature amenities like a swimming pool, billiard halls and badminton courts as well as a spa and wellness center.

The Ayala Greenfield Estates Village Clubhouse is part of the Nature Park, and features a social hall for events and functions, swimming pool, covered courts for basketball, tennis and badminton, a fitness gym, game room and a coffee shop. "It also has lockers and shower facilities complete with massage rooms and steam bath amenities," added Tanco.

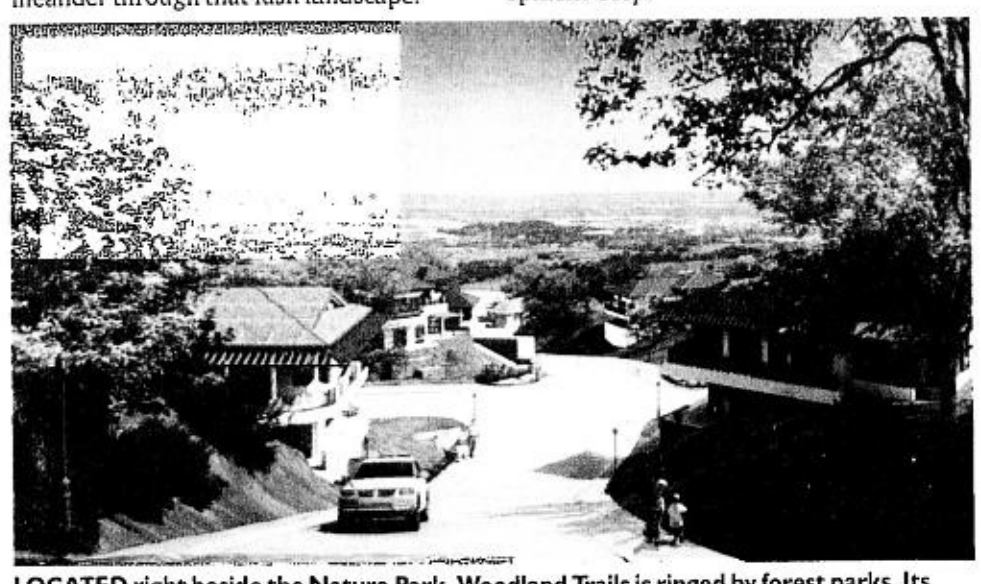
Ayala Greenfield Estates is also developing another destination within the Nature Park. "The Riparian Grove will provide more camping grounds and hiking trails in a true forest setting because the area is full of mature and large trees," said Tanco. "There will also be an amphitheater, rest stations and view decks under the canopy shade of forest trees."

In-demand area

Despite being the newest phase launched, Woodland Trails has since become one of the most in-demand areas in Ayala Greenfiled Estates. "We initially offered 43 lots—all prime because of the high elevation and good views," shared Tanco. "On the first day alone, about half of those lots were sold." Given its choice location, Ayala Land Premier is confident that the remaining lots, as well as the new batch being offered this month, will surely be snapped up as fast.

"The Woodland Trails is certainly a place where you can find nature at its grandest," said Tanco. With lush greenery, majestic trees, and a variety of natural wonders surrounding Ayala Greenfield Estates' latest phase, it is no wonder that many would love to take part of nature's bounty at the Woodland Trails.

Ayala Greenfield Estates is one of the choicest, exclusive residences managed and marketed by Ayala Land Premier, the high-end business unit of Ayala Land, whose excellent brand of service and care has led to the development of innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, first-class abodes over the last few decades. It is developed by Ayala Greenfield Development Corp.



LOCATED right beside the Nature Park, Woodland Trails is ringed by forest parks. Its architecture takes advantage of its sloping terrain and high elevation and only 50 percent of the area is saleable.

Taking a peek at the future of bathrooms

By Charles E. Buban

IF YOU ARE WONDERING WHAT THE bathroom of the future will be like, then the recently concluded private exhibition of Siam Mariwasa Toto Inc. (SMT) in Mandaluyong City would have satisfied your curiosity.

Called "The Bath Space 2007," the two-day event held at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel also gave viewers several ideas on how to personalize one's own bathroom through the exhibit's wide selection of bathroom suites and products presented.

"As maker of Toto brand of world-class quality bathroom fixtures, SMT would like to go beyond simply providing its customers with innovative products. Instead, the company is now into creating products that deliver consistent, exceptional performance and possess breakthrough designs that enhances one's sense of well-being," explains Gary Bogarin, SMT project sales and marketing manager.

Hard look

Bogarin says the market is now taking a hard look into the future of bathroom design since this part of anyone's home is now being considered an important element that contributes to the overall health and well-being of each household member.

The private viewing also unveiled Toto's most technologically advanced fixtures (bannered by the Neorest), the Icon series of faucets and showers as well as Console lavatories and the latest bathroom suites for 2007—the Avante and the Excelsior.

The Neorest packs the maximum number of technological advances into a minimum amount of space: its cover automatically opens whenever an individual approaches and closes the lid and flushes when the person leaves. It even knows what has gone on in between: for liquid-only waste, Neorest uses less water to flush.

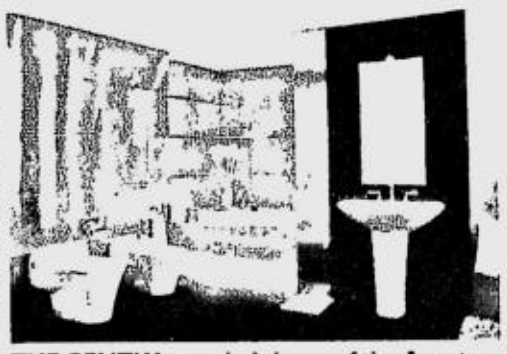
Electronically controlled

"It employs the electronically controlled multisequential rim jet Tornado Flushing System that quietly provides optimum performance to the 6 liters per flush. It can activate an automatic self-washing wand for effective cleaning, and also features an auto-powered deodorizer, a warm-air dryer with temperature adjustment, and energy-saving timer-operated seat heater—all of which can be conveniently controlled by a wireless remote with LCD panel," Bogarin explains. He says the Neorest is destined to be the "must-have" element for any high-tech bathroom.

Neorest's modern, elongated and low profile can fit well into almost any bathroom design concept.

Bogarins says the exhibit allowed its viewers, which include interior designers, architects and property developers, fresh ideas on their next project and how Toto's line of products could enhance them.

"Toto is a Japan-based company that has been manufacturing sanitary wares, faucets and metal fittings, bathtubs as well as seats and covers since 1917. Here in the Philippines, SMT has been manufacturing Toto products for over 11 years, which makes the company an authority when it comes to what would be the next trend," Bogarin says.



THE GENTLY rounded slopes of the Avante Suite convey a gentle mood that underlies graceful strength.

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Sucat, Muntinlupa

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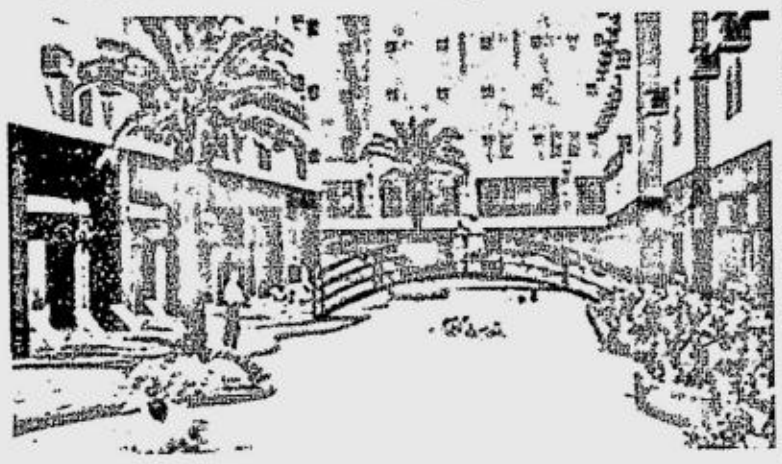
As you arrive at the Centro, you will notice the scenery that surrounds the property. It's all verdant from any angle. Courteous security personnel man the entrance, giving residents fulltime security for their comfort and peace of mind.

But the aesthetic features outside are just a slice of Centro's complete lifestyle. The lobby invites residents and guests alike to have a share in the magnificence of modern architecture and peaceful ambience.

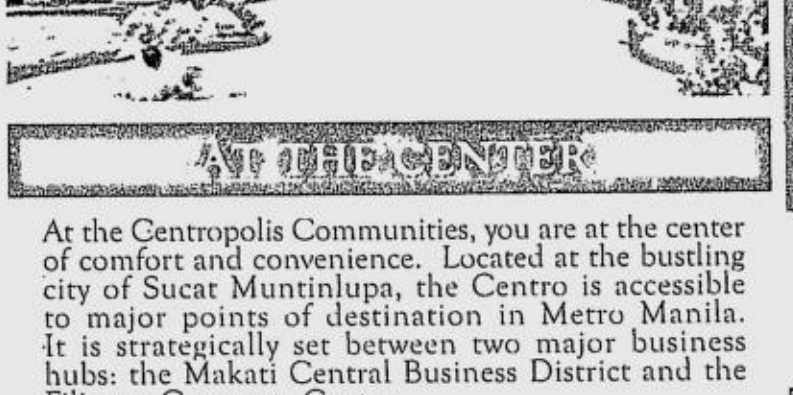


AT THE CENTER

At the Centropolis Communities, you are at the center of comfort and convenience. Located at the bustling city of Sucat Muntinlupa, the Centro is accessible to major points of destination in Metro Manila. It is strategically set between two major business hubs: the Makati Central Business District and the Filinvest Corporate Center.

Surrounded by large-scale commercial and institutional establishments, all routes provide easy access to all your necessities. The two major thoroughfares - South Super Highway and Sucat Road are easy routes to and from your points of origin.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED



If you're in for a shopping spree, it is good to know that rows of shops in a refreshing al-fresco setting are arranged right inside the enclave. Now you don't have to go too far to savor life's simple pleasures.

And best of all, Centropolis Communities are priced within reach of every budget-conscious family. For as low as P7,000 a month, you can have your own place in this world.

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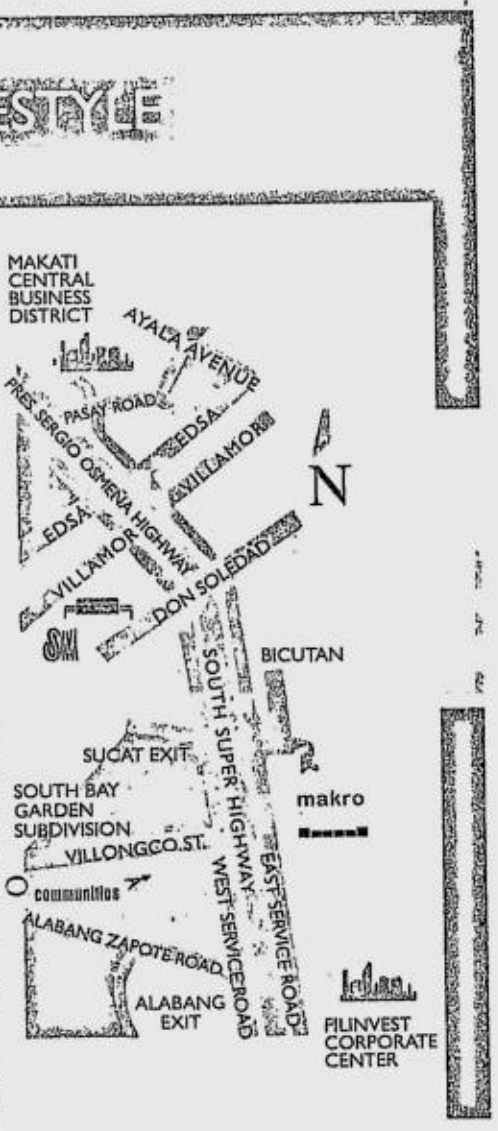
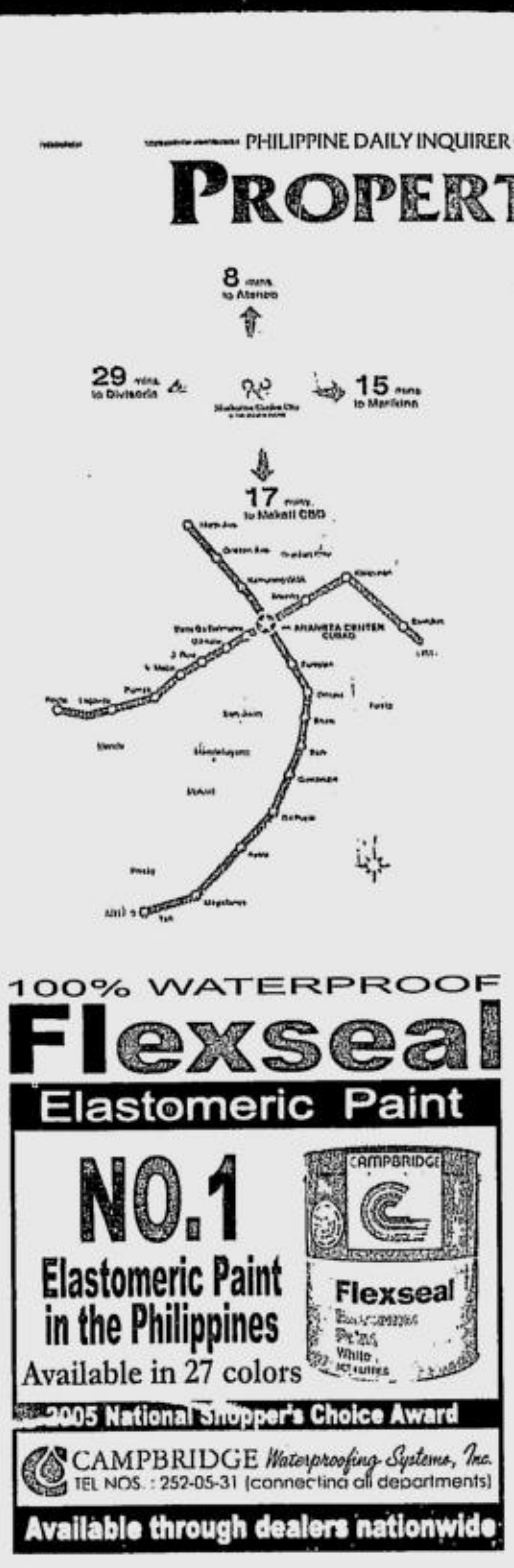
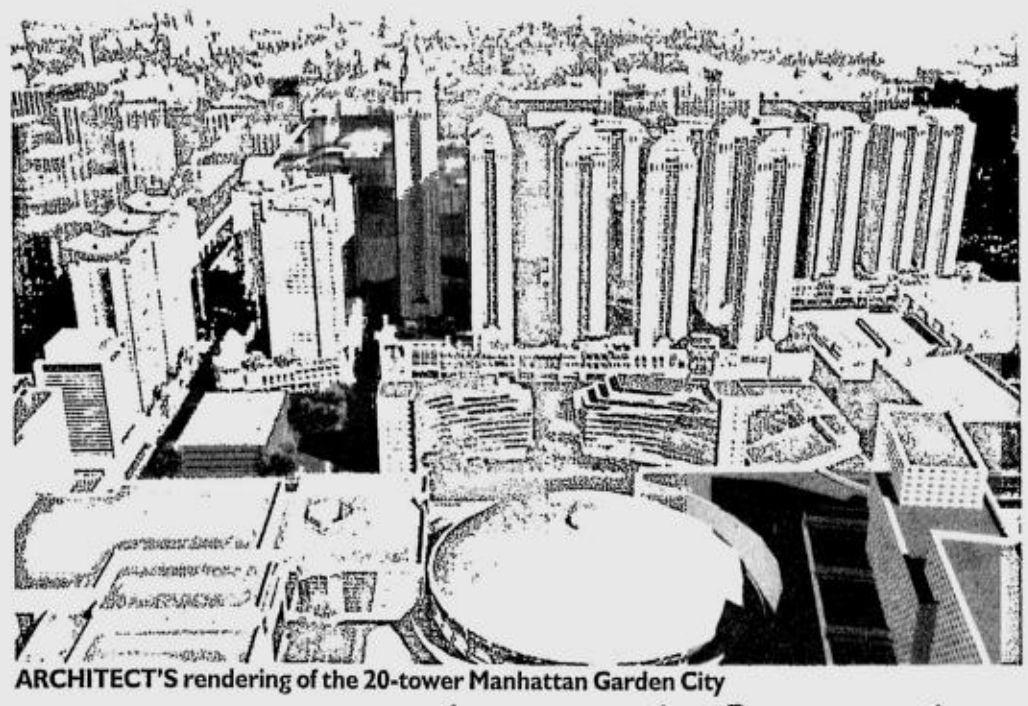


MANHATTAN Garden City connects to the LRT-2 and MRT-3 mass transit systems at the Araneta Center in Cubao.





ARCHITECT'S rendering of the 20-tower Manhattan Garden City

A new urban lifestyle at Araneta Center

MEGAWORLD CORP., THE PHILIPPINES' leading residential condominium developer, introduces a whole new perspective to urban living in Manhattan Garden City, its breakthrough project at the Araneta Center in Cubao. The project shows that when it comes to location, there is nothing better than being at the crossroads of Metro Manila.

Manhattan Garden City is the country's first-ever transit-oriented development (TOD). In major urban centers such as Singapore and Manhattan, TODs offer quick access to key destinations with their direct link to mass transportation systems. By replicating this concept locally, Megaworld brings people a truly mobile lifestyle in a highly strategic location.

Cubao revitalized

Manhattan Garden City is a joint-venture project of Megaworld and Araneta Center Inc. Comprising 20 towers with more than 9,000 residential condominium units, it is set to rise in a prime five-hectare spot at the 35-hectare Araneta Center, owned by the Araneta Group.

. Built by the Araneta family as the country's first leisure and lifestyle complex in the 1960s, Araneta Center is envisioned to bring together residences, offices, leisure establishments and entertainment hubs in one setting. Also a part of the Araneta Group's vision for the community is a secure environment with an efficient road network.

Where north, south meet

The landscape of the Araneta Center may already be undergoing a transformation, but its main attraction still lies in its location. Not only is it strategically set at the heart of the metro, but it is also where two mass train systems meet: the LRT-2 and MRT-3.

Set in the less bustling northeastern residential side of the Araneta Center, Manhattan Garden City enjoys a peaceful yet privileged location. It has been masterplanned to make it accessible to virtually all destinations in Metro Manila via the trains. The LRT-2 connects the metro's east and west sides, from Santolan in Pasig City to Recto Avenue in Manila. The MRT-3, on the other hand, runs from North Avenue to Taft Avenue on Edsa in the south.

Both train systems meet at the Araneta Center and connect with the LRT-1 to bring the entire stretch from Monumento in Caloocan to Baclaran in Parañaque within easy reach. The LRT-1 links up with the LRT-2 at Doroteo Jose in Manila and the MRT-3 at Taft Avenue in Pasay.

A walk in the park

Every detail of the Manhattan Garden City is centered on the homeowners' comfort and convenience. While the average commuter has to walk to the LRT-2 and MRT-3 stations at street level, residents will have exclusive use of an elevated walkway leading to the train systems.

This four-story-high, 729-meter-long garden walkway is a focal point of Manhattan Garden City. A first in the country, the park-inspired walkway will interconnect all 20 buildings, and through landscaped footbridges and a transfer station, it will bring residents within walking distance from the LRT-2 and MRT-3.

The world next door

At Manhattan Garden City, residents enjoy an edge in mobility. The Araneta Center's shopping, dining and entertainment hubs have never been easier to reach on foot.

A short stroll away is the Araneta Coliseum, or the "Big Dome," home to the country's biggest sporting and entertainment events. Equally accessible is the upscale Gateway Mall, which hosts The Oasis, a unique interior floating garden. Other commercial landmarks such as SM Cubao, Shopwise, Ali Mall, Farmers Plaza and Plaza Fair are also a few minutes away.

Modern creature comforts

The lifestyle conveniences showcased at Manhattan Garden City afford residents the utmost pleasure. The project's first phase, the three-tower Manhattan Parkway, hosts executive studios and one-bedroom homes, ranging from 22.5 to 55 square meters. The units, which can be combined, look out on the Araneta Center and Manila Bay. Arrayed at the fourth-level garden deck are play amenities such as trellised walkways and jogging trails, a fitness station, an indoor sauna/spa and a gym. Footbridges will connect residents to a lot more fun facilities at the upcoming phases. Meanwhile, at the ground level is a retail arcade, which expands the recreational options for residents at Manhattan Garden City.

ARTIST'S impression of the play amenities at the fourth-level garden deck

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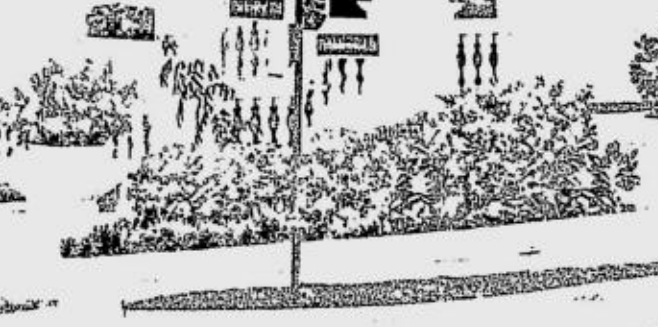

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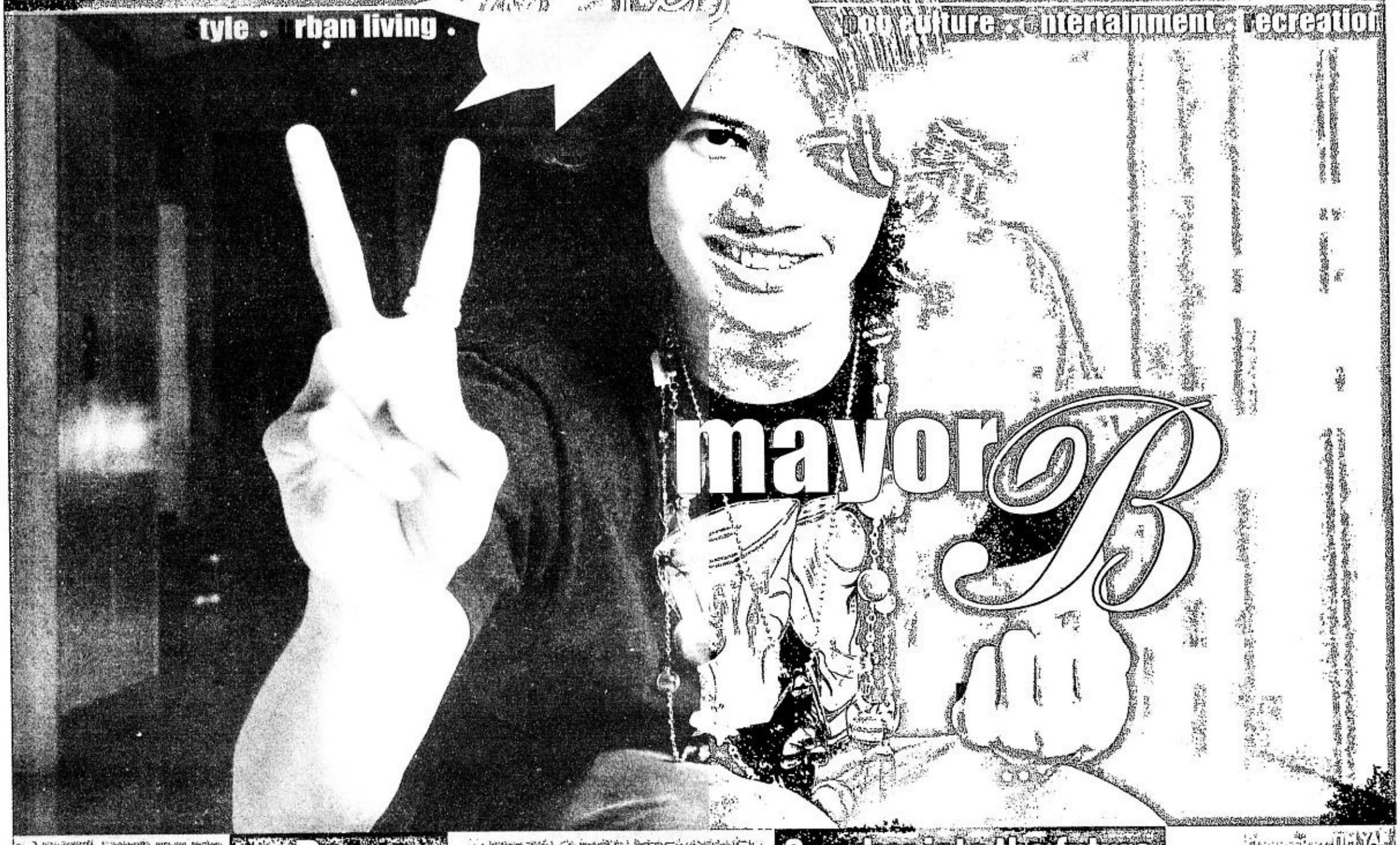


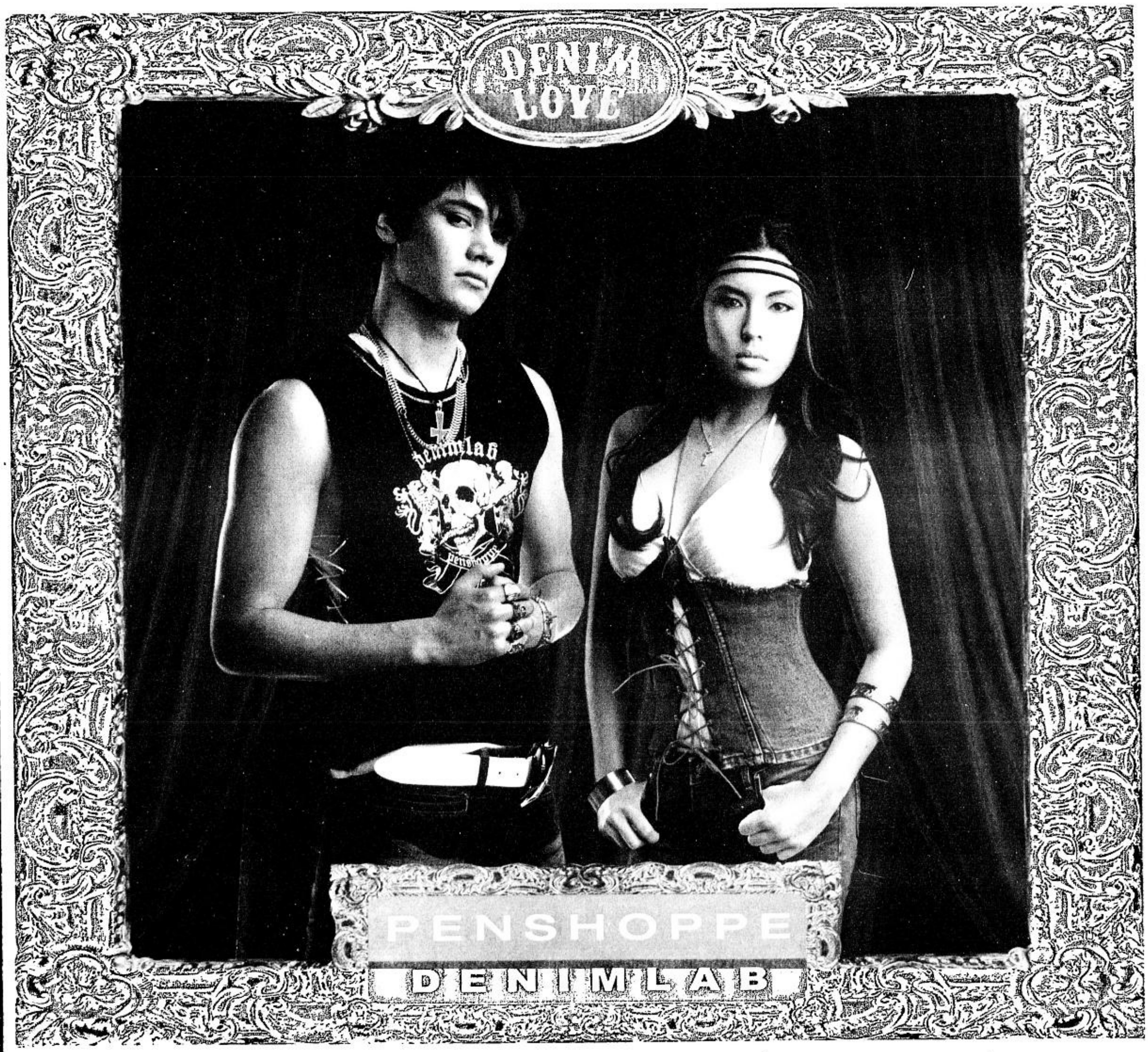
Super exclusive
Tim Yap on Tim Yip
page D1

Is Borgy Manotoc running or not?
page C2

Super prestige page D4
Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale

Sneaker into the future
Hail to the new
R&B n' hiphop royalty
page C4

PHOTOGRAPHY CHARLES LU
STYLING BORGY MANOTOC
HAIR & MAKE-UP
MELDA
EMILY TABILLO VALLEJOS



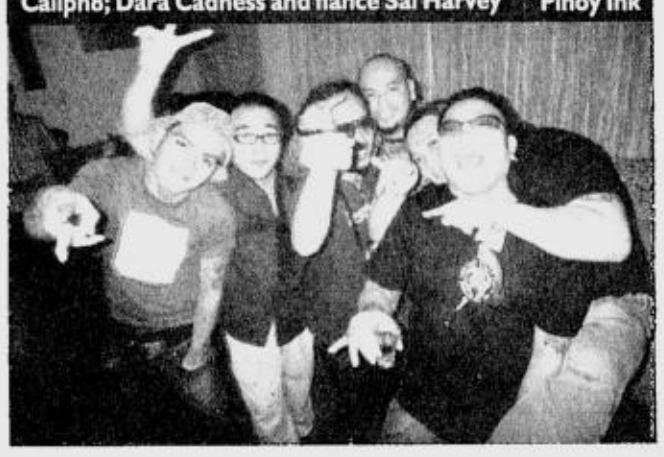
PARTY OFFICIALS. "Mayor" Borgy Manotoc with "Vice" Malaya aka Ronald Pasion; DJ Mulan flashes the "V"

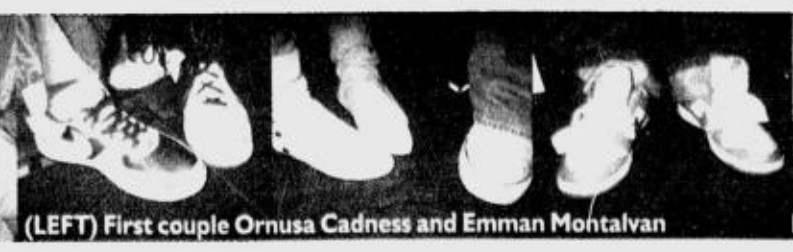
COOL CONSTITUENTS. Paolo Gonzalez, Zon Beltran, Pinoy Ink artists and Ron of K-Lite

EXECUTIVE ORDER. Macky Maguigad with Junior Kilat's Budoy; Rose and Roque; Davao's Paul Duterte

NO EVICTION. Arvin Nogueras aka DJ Caliph8; Dara Cadness and fiancé Sal Harvey

CITY Hall of fame. The tattoo artists of Pinoy Ink





(LEFT) First couple Ornusa Cadness and Emman Montalvan

LET'S change this country, one step at a time.

Run Borgy, run!

PICTURE THIS. **BORGY Manotoc** walking out of City Hall in an urban *barong* with a hoodie, chain clasped on his irregular fit jeans, roomy on the hip and tight on the calves—Borgy-style, of course—as he takes the platform to address the youth of Manila.

The crowd is a mishmash of his contituents from Gagalangin, Tondo. They're all wearing long socks paired with shorts and colored sneaks, very urban forward. His girlfriend **Ornusa Cadness** flashes the "V" sign that the Marcoses have been known for.

Okay, I am kidding.

The exact minute your AM radio carried the news of "Borgy for Mayor," we were all inside Embassy Cuisine, where indeed, Borgy is mayor, alongside his vice, Malaya, a.k.a. **Ronald Pasion** who is at the helm of his new baby "Happy Mondays." It was not your usual Monday night.

Tattoo artists mingled with the scene's local DJs who played for the scene shakers who showed up for this musical *miting de avance*. Happy Monday style. If you thought Monday nights in Manila are boring, wait 'til you experience it the Borgy way. "We play music you won't hear anywhere," Borgy enthused as a musician played an impromptu set with his baby sax, following the beat of **DJ Mulan**'s spin doctoring.

Tim Yap

Photo by Charles Lu
Party photos by Tim Yap using Kodak V705

You have my vote

Scenemeister Ronald Pasion was at his usual campaign best, serving his signature red Malaya shaker to his guests, who all screamed in unison, "Happy Mondays!" Ornusa quietly sat at our table, happily sketching our faces which she will make into stickers, just like the one rendered on this page. "I'm making Happy Monday stickers every week as my new project," the model slash artist shared.

Later on, my driver **Abet** went up to me and asked my seatmate whether it was true that he was running for office. Borgy laughed and explained to my man Friday about the confusion. Abet went on to assure him. "But sir, you have my vote! He gave the ex-future Mayor Manotoc a pat on the back.

I wanted to give Abet a pat, too—a wake up pat, to remind him that he resides in Bulacan, and not Manila, where Borgy's bailiwick should be. Borgy further explained that it was a big joke that was blown out of proportion. Yes, this boy has big dreams—he told me his plans (but that should be saved for a future Super! issue), but they were not the political kind.

"I'm not running, I'm driving." He ends the political debate of the moment with a big grin.

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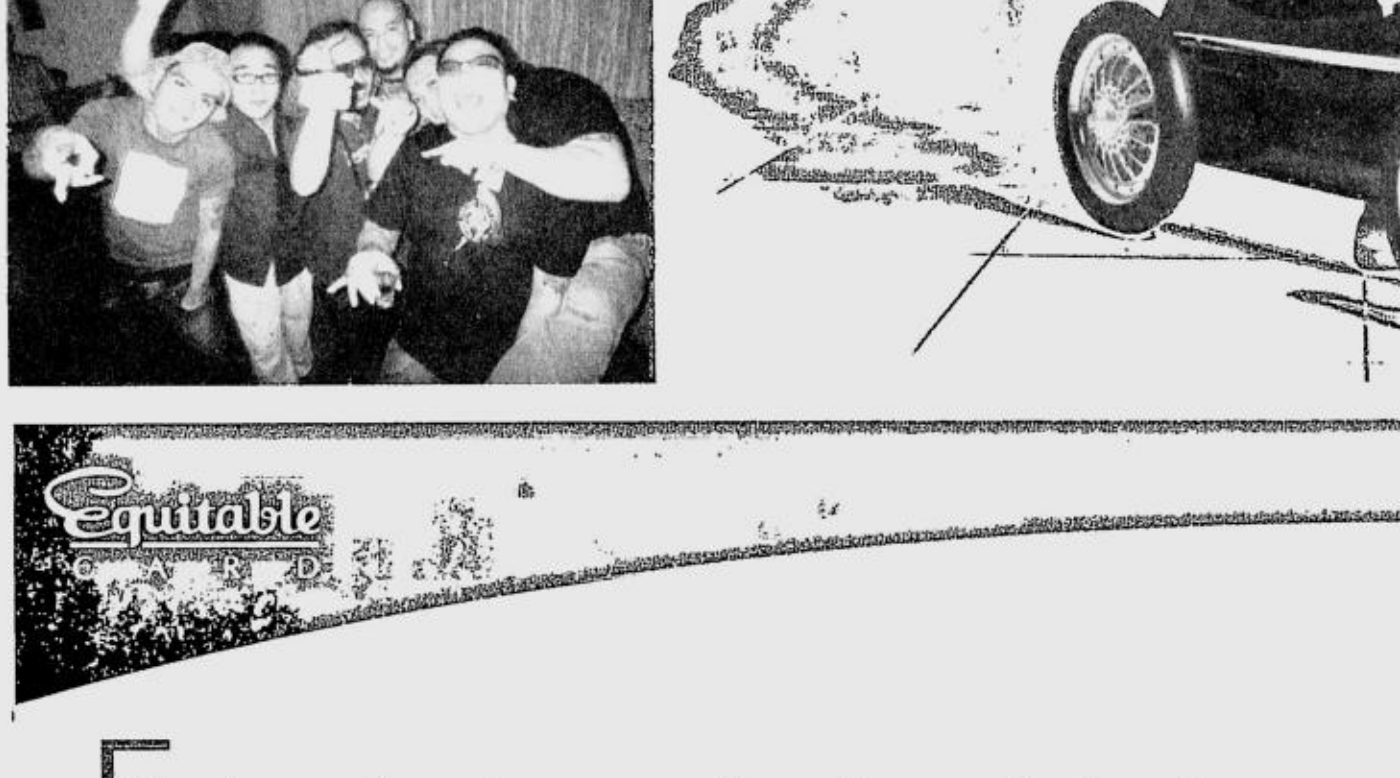

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AMERICAN EXPRESS

For DTI - NCR Permit No. 4659 Series of 2006

A sneaker ...

From page C4

Occupation: DJ for Power 106 and Far East Movement
Favorite brands: Bathing Ape, BBC, Tru Youth, Famous Stars and Starps, Supreme, Stussy, and Unbreakable
Worst outfit ever worn? When I was 10 years old I had to wear this Christmas sweater my aunt gave me.
I own: 15 pairs of jeans and 100 pairs of sneakers but gave half to my relatives
What's your favorite era of fashion: I would say 2003, when I was the only one rocking Bathing Ape and no one knew what it was.
I collect: Marvel toys.
Who do you think has wack style: I don't think anyone has a wack style because it's their own style. I never hate on anyone's style.
Which sneakers are you wearing today: Bape Kaws Camo color

Occupation: Ball out of control
Favorite brands: Arteryx, Bastos Boys Wear, Racheal Comey
Worst outfit ever worn: This one outfit that made me look like Enrique Iglesias
I own: 3 or 4 jeans (but only wear one) and a good bit of sneakers
What/who inspires your style: James Brown, Snake Eyes, Hall & Oates
What do you collect? Junk
Who do you think has wack style? Wack people
Which sneakers are you wearing today? Some frickin' 180s

"Editorial photography is real hard work. I use a wide range of lighting and equipment on-site and work in all sorts of environments products, food and automobile. Wherever my job takes me, I've got my **Nikon D200**. It offers incredible creative possibilities that make my work, and my client's profile, stand out from the crowd."

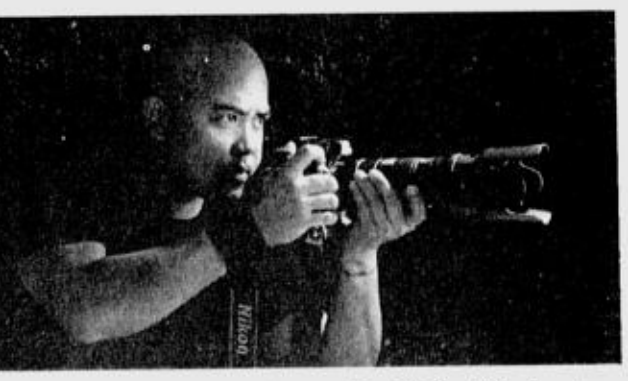
Kai Huang
Editorial Photographer

"Wedding photography demands a lot of confidence and expertise. After all, it's your job to give a couple some great memories to cherish for a lifetime. That's why I rely on my camera's speed and great white balance because there's only ONE chance to get those perfect shots and with my **Nikon D80**. I'm confident that I'll capture those fleeting once-in-a-lifetime moments. And keep all the smiles coming."

Lito Sy
Wedding Photographer

"With all its glitz and glamour, advertising and fashion photography is probably one of the most sought-after professions today. But breaking into the industry can be real tough. I needed all the help I can get, and that's where my **Nikon D2Xs** came in. In this competitive playing field, cutting-edge is the name of the game. And this camera gives me all the edge I need."

Xander Angeles
Advertising and Fashion Photographer



the Big3
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AMERICAN EXPRESS

A sneaker into the future...

By David Milan
Photography: Charles Lu of Wildbunch Studio
Styling: Rosario Herrera of Style Lab

IT'S OFFICIAL—THE SNEAKER craze has gotten even crazier. More and more people are being spotted wearing colorful kicks from daytime to partytime! From hand-painted designs and skull prints to stripes and colorful hues, this kind of footwear is a surefire showstopper. People have gone wild over sneakers—purchasing them and flaunting them. A whole new culture has started collecting, trading, reselling, analyzing, and even blogging about their favorite footwear. With this in mind, the amazing Herrera siblings Jon and Rosario formulated a way to make this sneaker craze even crazier! Enter Unbreakable.

Unbreakable is Jon and Rosario's second line of T-shirts, the follow-up to their premiere line, the successful New York and L.A.-based, Tru Youth. Unbreakable is a T-shirt line that has sneaker designs edgily printed on it. A wide range of shirts allow all the sneaker pimps to choose the shirt that suits their sneaks! With the siblings' influence on music, fashion and art they hope to push and promote individuality through sneakers and shirts.

In an exclusive shoot for Super! Unbreakable gathered some of Manila's Sneakerheads and asked them about their footwear fetish!

Log on to Unbreakbleapparel.blogspot.com to hear the latest news and developments. They will have their own booth in the Lifestyle Bazaar on Nov. 17-19 at the Rockwell Tent. Get your foot into this.

Occupation: Hiphopreneur, lifestyle designer, DJ/promoter, mogul in the making
Favorite brands: Tru Youth, Unbreakable, Truyouth.com, Adidas, Zoo York, L-R-G
Worst outfit ever worn: Biker shorts, mC hammer slacks
I own: 20 pairs of jeans that fit me and 30 that doesn't; I've owned more than 50 but gave away most of them
Style inspiration: Japan. The people in the streets. Soho· music and movies. Icons like Marc Ecko, Nigo and Edison Chen
Favorite era of fashion: Now because anything now can be hot and the next big thing. There is no norm for what's stylish.
Which sneakers are you wearing today? Adicolor Camo

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Occupation: Hiphopreneur and struggling college student
What are your favorite brands? Vans, Nike, Adidas, anything dope, or Callabo, every thing on Typebeat
What's the worst outfit you've ever worn? Wearing those tight Zara shirts trying to be all GQ when I was 15
How many pairs of jeans and sneakers do you own? 16 pairs of jeans and 10 or more sneakers. I don't like overkill.
What/who inspires your style? Being different and rockin' what you think looks good and not what other people think
What's your favorite era of fashion? Now
What do you collect? Vinyls
Who do you think has wack style? Biters, copycats
Which sneakers are you wearing today? Vans

Favorite brands: What's Ever Rosario likes: Adidas, Bape, LRG, Ironman
What's the worst outfit you've ever worn? Nike shoes with an Adidas hat and a Puma shirt
How many pairs of jeans and sneakers do you own? 20 pairs of jeans and 25 pairs of sneakers
What/Who inspires your style? The streets, Michael Jackson
What's your favorite era of fashion? Now
What do you collect? Info
Which sneakers are you wearing today?

Occupation: Hustler
Favorite brands: Orchard St, LRG, Bape, Nike, Adidas, A New York Thing
Worst outfit ever worn: Too many to write
I own: Over 15 pairs of jeans and over 70 pairs of sneakers
Style inspiration: NYC, and people who keep it real
Favorite fashion era: Now and then
I collect: Anything and everything. Shoes, stickers, mags, junk
Who do you think has wack style: Posers
Which sneakers are you wearing today: Bapes

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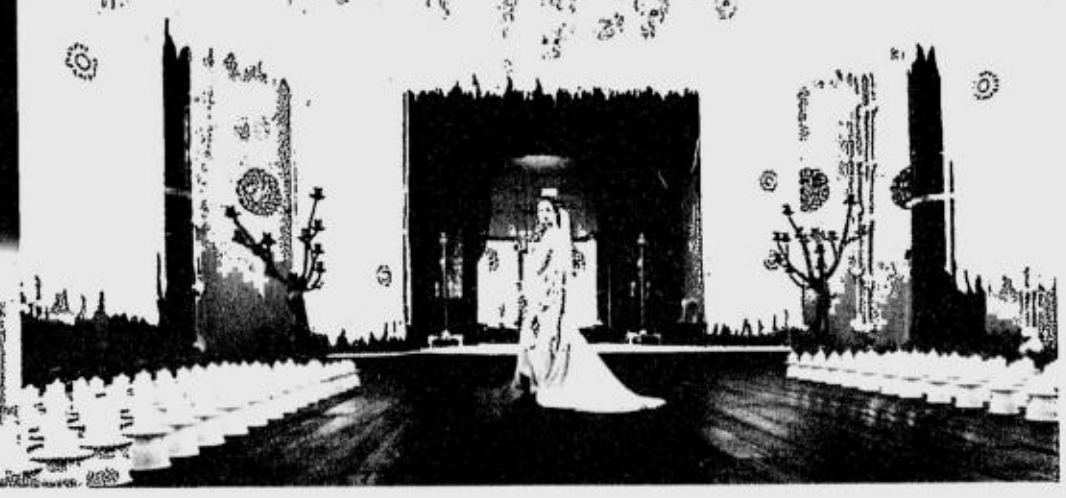

By Tim Yap

I SAT IN AWE INSIDE THE MOVIE theater, as the credits rolled. This was Asian cinema at its finest and even after the screen went blank, I could still see the vividness of the colors clashing and merging in a grand orgy of fabric.

And then suddenly, the light flashed to reveal the master behind all the costumed action: Tim Yip.

I thought it was just a typo. But then again, I thought to myself, I didn't really work on "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," though I've done a lot of crouching myself.

Just recently, on my way to Tin Hau at the Mandarin Oriental, I saw a grand display of intricately done samurai warrior costumes and a name flashed again: Tim Yip.

And so once again, I asked myself, "Is this the Keanna Reeves to my existence?" The mystery was baffling me and so I did some Googling, and I realized that it was the other way around. Tim Yip is Tim Yip, an Oscar awardee for his achievement in art direction for "Crouching." His latest work, again starring Ziyi Zhang, is the passion play of a film entitled "The Banquet."

Yip has collaborated with various Asian auteur, including Ang Lee (Eat Drink Man Woman, Crouching tiger Hidden Dragon), Wayne Wang (Eat a Bowl of Tea), Stanley Kwan (Rouge), Clara Law (Autumn Moon, Temptation of a Monk), Tsai Ming-liang (What time is it there?) and Tian Zhuanghang (Springtime in a small town). He is currently working on John Woo's highly anticipated war epic, "Battle of the Red Cliff."

Yip, yipee!

Over a lavish "banquet," I got to spend an evening yapping away with Mr. Yip, yup! It was a bizaare evening indeed.

For his work on this film, Yip had the task of bringing viewers to 10th century China where he designed around 20 sets, the biggest of which is the palace's grand hall where the actual banquet was held. The set was larger than a football field. Combining all adjacent sets done for "The Banquet," the Emperor's Palace is the largest set ever built in China.

When asked to define his style, Yip quips, "I mix the styles of different periods of time together to express myself. When I create a style

YAP/ D3

EMPRESS DESIRE. Zhang Ziyi's decadent and layered costumes as designed by Tim Yip.

'IT'S JUST like music—I needed a sound to complement the bass—the big sound. Zhang Ziyi was the bass and Zhou Xun was the lighter sound.'

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A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

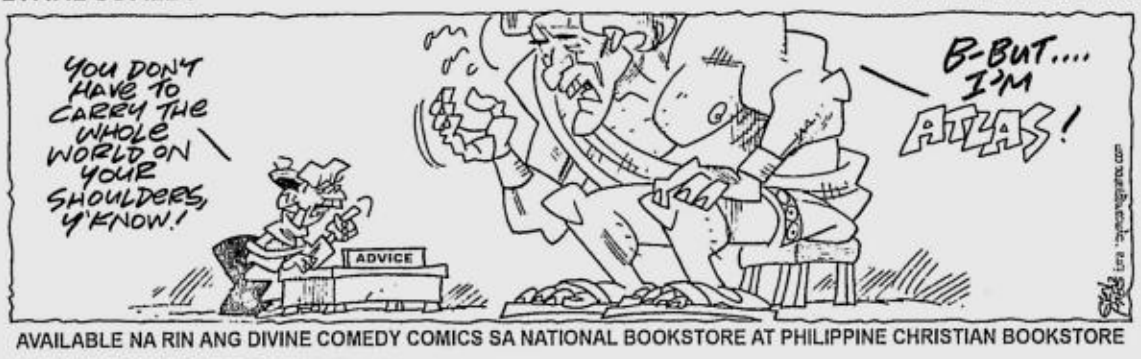
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS



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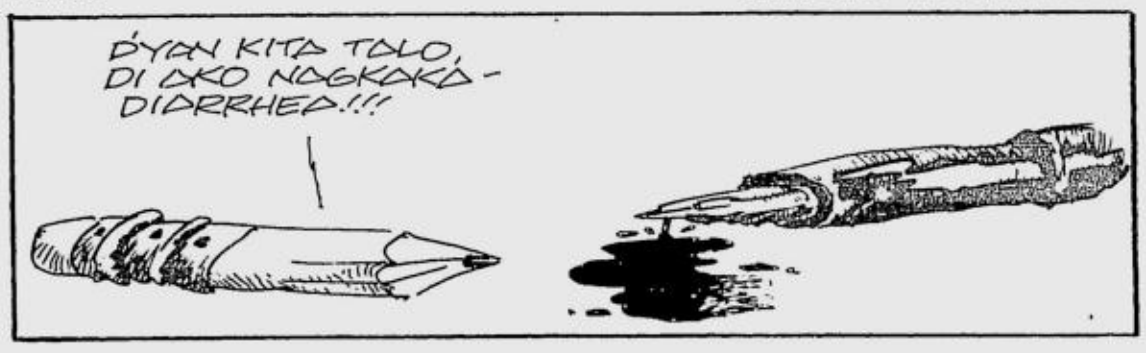
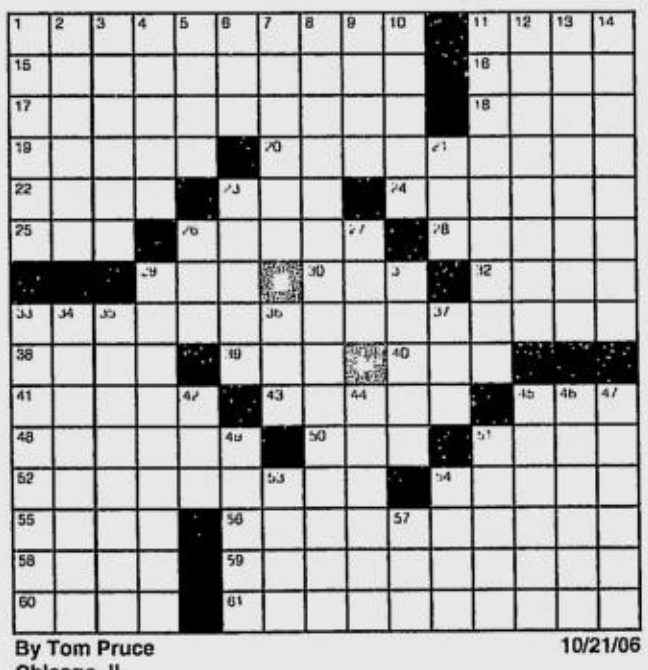


BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

10/21/06

ACROSS
1 Tactless
11 __ and now
15 Nouakchott's location
16 Park and Lex.
17 Church section?
18 Dimwit
19 Granter of three wishes
20 Intentional deceiver
22 Coastal bird
23 Cartoon shriek
24 Sweet-smelling gas
25 987-65-4321 group
26 Of an arm bone
28 Transmits
29 R.E. Lee's nation
30 LCD watch month
32 Top cards
33 Larry McMurtry novel
38 Huntley or Atkins
39 Slip up
40 Gallery draw
41 Cordelia and Goneril's sister
43 Eagle's nest
45 Pers.
48 Chinese calculator
50 Actor Beatty
51 Mirth
52 Lady oracle
54 Winged
55 __ colada
56 Certain particle with an opposite charge
58 Paradise
59 Inconclusive conclusions
60 Wine list section
61 Herbal cure, e.g.

DOWN
1 Pictures in the mind
2 Identifiers
3 Prokofiev opera, with "The"
4 Tennessee __ Ford
5 Fully grown nits
6 O.J. trial judge
7 Bizet opera
8 59-shooting LPGA-er
9 Overtime producers
10 "Guitar Town" singer Steve
11 Shows mercy
12 Betray symptoms of
13 Fixed again
14 Cafe order
21 Mork and ALF, for example
23 Make joyful
26 Purpose
27 Library sec.
29 Whales and dolphins
31 Clan pattern
33 Game fighter
34 1985 Jennifer Beals movie
35 Recovered possession of
36 Sp. lady
37 __ you kidding me?
42 Greek letters
44 Put back in the granary
45 Nebraska river
46 Killed in the Oval Office
47 Very little
49 Secret store
51 Twilight, poetically
53 Inside: pref.
54 French weapon
57 __ diem (daily)

Friday's Puzzle Solved

J	E	D	■	S	M	A	L	L	■	B	A	I	L	S
E	L	O	■	P	A	D	U	A	■	A	T	S	E	A
T	H	U	■	A	S	I	A	N	■	T	H	E	I	R
S	I	G	H	■	T	O	U	G	H	B	R	E	A	K
■	■	H	A	R	E	S	■	■	O	O	O	■	■	■
G	A	F	F	E	R	■	A	R	M	Y	B	R	A	T
R	E	A	T	A	■	F	L	O	E	S	■	O	L	A
E	T	C	S	■	P	R	I	U	S	■	N	U	I	T
E	N	E	■	B	E	A	S	T	■	M	A	G	N	A
R	A	S	P	I	E	S	T	■	Z	I	T	H	E	R
■	■	■	I	S	L	■	■	C	E	D	E	D	■	■
C	O	U	G	H	S	Y	R	U	P	■	S	R	A	S
A	N	G	L	O	■	E	I	G	H	T	■	A	R	T
S	A	L	E	P	■	S	T	A	Y	S	■	F	E	E
K	N	I	T	S	■	M	E	T	R	O	■	T	A	P

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10/21/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are imaginative, and you have excellent verbal skills. (In large measure, this is due to your fine, intelligent mind.) You're an independent thinker. You like a partner who challenges you. However, you want beautiful, harmonious surroundings. In the year ahead, you will face an important choice. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Carrie Fisher, actress/writer; Ursula K. LeGuin, author; Alfred Nobel, dynamite inventor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): The New Moon is the perfect time to make new resolutions to improve certain areas of your life. Today's New Moon offers you a chance to improve your closest friendships and partnerships

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is probably one of the best times all year for you to think about how you can improve your job. What can you do to be more efficient and effective at what you do every day?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Do you take time to express your creative side? Do you even acknowledge it? Today's New Moon wants you to explore all your talents

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Because the Moon is your ruler, you feel each Full Moon and you feel each New Moon. The New Moon this weekend is the best time for you to make improvements at home.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): What can you do to improve your daily communications, especially with relatives and siblings? Work harder to be extra-clear in everything you say to everyone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Money is energy. It allows you to do things and make changes in the world around you. This weekend, the New Moon offers you a chance to see how you can best use your financial resources.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is the only New Moon in your sign all year. Make a resolution about how you can improve your closest relationships and also how you can improve your appearance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): In our busy society with all its distractions, it's easy to forget how important solitude is. Give yourself some time alone to make friends with yourself!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Do you have good friends? Today's New Moon is the time to think about this. If you want to have friends, be friendly!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your reputation matters to you. The New Moon this weekend is the perfect time for you to think about how you handle authority figures in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Ask yourself if you can learn something that will help you in your career or in your daily life? How can you expand your world?

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Think very carefully now about how to best use the resources of others and share things so that everyone is happy. Remember: Good business is mutually beneficial.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	7		5					
					6	5		4
	9			7				
	2			9				8
		5	8	4	3	1		
1				6			9	
				2			5	
3		6	4					
					7		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/21

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	7	6	8	5	9	1	4	2
1	2	8	7	4	3	9	6	5
5	9	4	6	2	1	8	3	7
4	1	7	3	9	8	5	2	6
2	8	3	5	1	6	7	9	4
6	5	9	2	7	4	3	1	8
7	4	1	9	6	5	2	8	3
8	6	5	1	3	2	4	7	9
9	3	2	4	8	7	6	5	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/20

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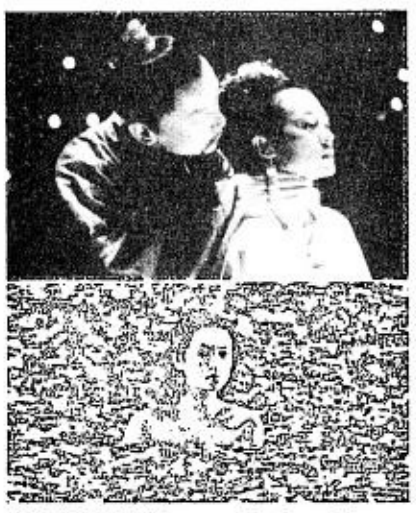
Yap on Yip

'I HAD to push Zhang's age and make her look more powerful but still have innocence in that power.'



AN EMPRESS burned by her all-consuming desire for love and power.

From page D1

it must be from today. The point of view is from today infused with ancient times." That explains the contemporary touch to his work.

In his "The Banquet" bio, Yip said that his aim is sophisticated art and yet he "remains adverse to commercial filmmaking." So I asked Tim about his creative process for the film. "The first time I met director Feng Xiaogang, he told me that he wanted something with the ancient style. He wanted something special because the story is based on Hamlet. I tried to mix some Renaissance with an ancient Chinese style for the imagery.

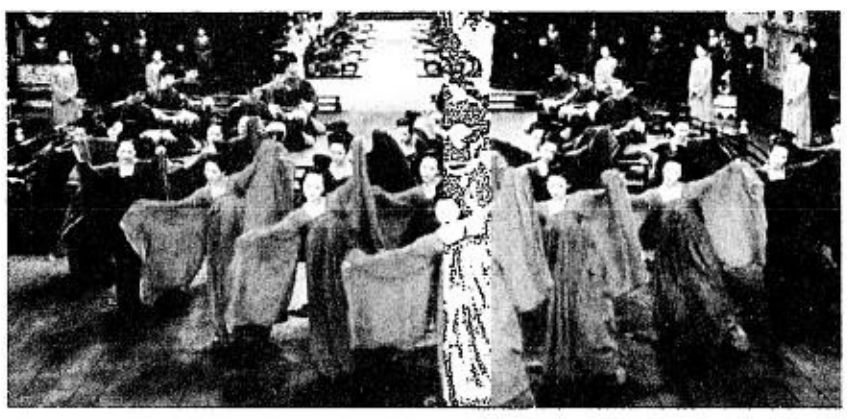
Focus on role play

He continues to divulge his design secrets. "In the Western style of drama, the characters are more complicated. One character may have a good part and a bad part and the boundaries are not clear.

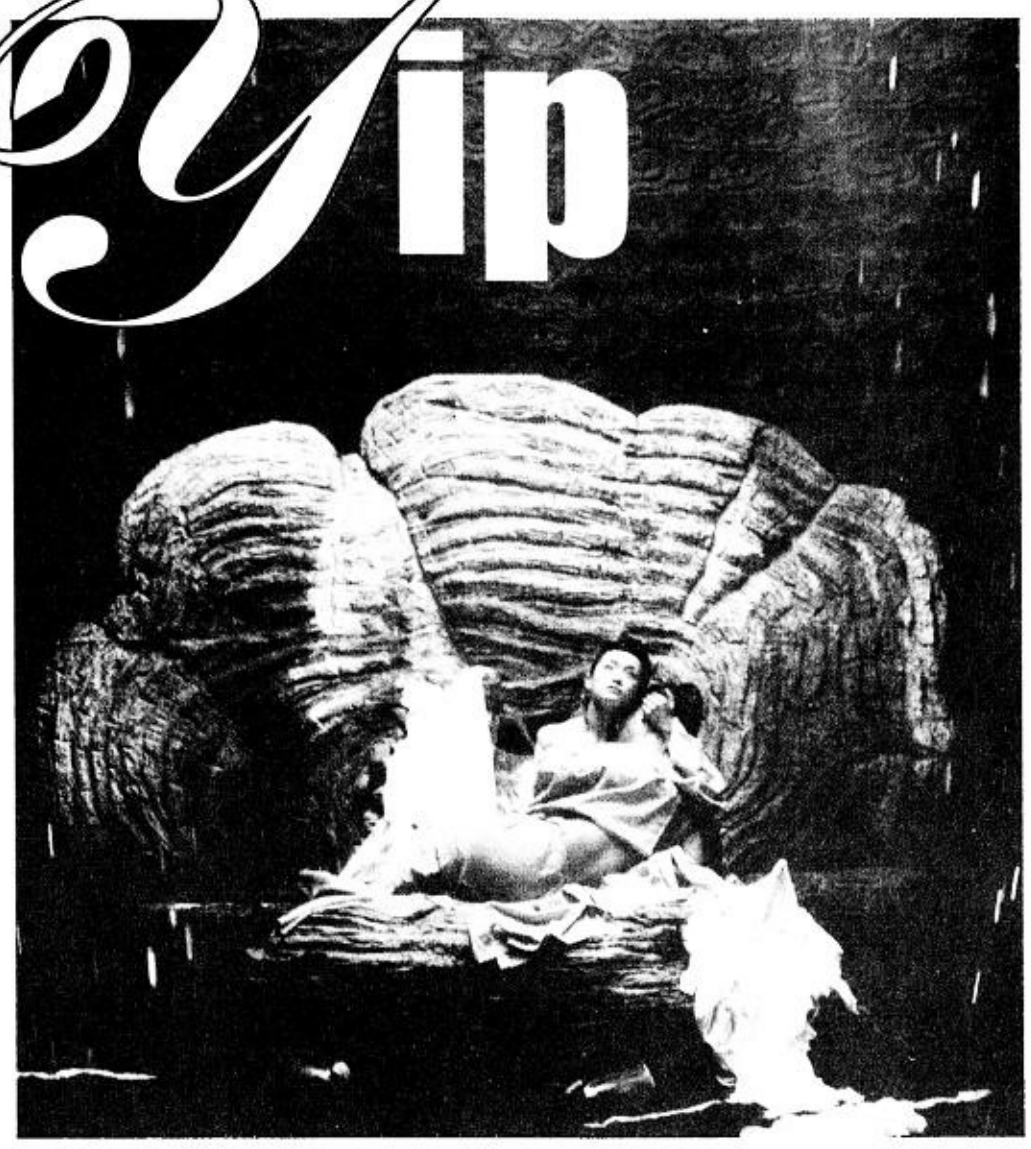
In traditional Chinese drama good and bad characters are styled differently and this is very symbolic so that you can tell immediately what kind of role they play."

Describing Zhang Ziyi's character in the film, Yip goes on to expound. "She is a very "Tang dynasty" kind of a woman. From the beginning she was not a scheming person and the layers were added on as the story goes. In the film, Empress Wan is suffering from her pure love with the prince and the situation with the new king."

This film, as the director puts it, is a film about desire.



THE SET included a massive wooden ampitheather where the Crown Prince Wu Luan retreated to a life of arts and music.



With each and every character pining for desire, I was curious about his color palette for Zhang Ziyi's character. "I made all the costumes with heavy and dark colors and only Zhang Ziyi has red at the end. In Chinese, there is a mysterious meaning for the color red and this is a symbol of desire and power."

Beyond the film

Recognizing the role of the production and costume designer as the right hand man of the director in telling the story, Tim talked about his working philosophy. "I use my instincts and understand the wishes of the director. I will see who the character is and each character's style will evolve based on what happens throughout the story."

The great thing about Yip's work is that it goes beyond the screen. Way after the movies have been shown, his work is elevated, praised and honored in exhibitions worldwide. "I am really happy with it. I'm glad to know that film audiences have started to pay attention to the details of the movie."

THE SHAPE of her clothing thick and simple in order to enhance her maturity.

A Super! snapshot of 'The Banquet' cast.

A true creative, he is inspired by Chinese classical elements. He paints, he does photography and writes. In fact, more than 10 of his novels have been published.

But he remains focused on making sets and clothes for cinema. With regards to maybe opening a boutique or store for clients who crave his work (I know I do), "So far, my contemporary fashions have been limited to mostly exhibitions. They veer towards installation art than wearable stuff."

From dark avengers . . .

From page D4

eclectic range of music in my iPod: heavy metal, R & B, some jazz ... I also like listening to soundtracks of movies.

Name some of your old and current acting heroes.

Judi Dench, Ben Kingsley, Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Robert De Niro, Jack Nicholson ... oh, and Harrison Ford!

Who do you think would win in a fight between Wolverine and Batman?

That's not a serious question (laughs)! Wolverine, dude!

CHRISTIAN BALE

How comfortable was it to work with Christopher Nolan again?

I would've wanted to work with whoever wrote the superb script regardless if it was Chris or not. We have a special working relationship. Chris is a shape-shifter as a director; he did that very well from "Batman Begins" to "The Prestige." I'm very confident with the way he works. He's one of the finest.

Speaking of shape-shifters, where do you draw inspiration from to play your obsessive magician character?

It's easy when you have such a good script and story. It kind of flows; it just happens. It certainly just goes right.

How was Hugh Jackman as a co-star, and an actor?

It was perfect casting. Hugh immediately wanted to play Robert Angier. That really appealed to him. I read the Alfred Borden part and that's what I wanted to do. You have two opposing philosophies with these two rival magicians. And Hugh's a good actor, dancer, he's very comfortable on stage. He was kind of the new boy on the team; most of us worked together before. He's an easygoing boy. It's very, very difficult not to get along with Hugh.

What can people expect from the upcoming "Batman" sequel?

We've gone over the introduction of our new characterization. People embraced it. People liked it. Chris is such a good filmmaker! I enjoy creating an intimacy about the project. Chris also enjoys that secrecy. You know the feeling about knowing something that others don't know yet? In due time, he'll bring me in and start talking about where we'll be taking the Dark Knight next.

When you're not acting, what do you enjoy doing?

I'm a father now and I truly like nothing better than that. But I've one hobby. I like the dirt bike a great deal. I like the elements and the heat and going where the path takes me. I have phases when I kind of need music, when I'm listening 24/7. But I realize I haven't picked up my iPod in a while. Same thing with reading, there are times when I soak it in. There's nothing I have consistently as one interest.

Who are your acting influences?

It's just people, documentaries ... the ones I really love. I look up to people in life. I'm no film buff.

As someone who started out young, did it become easier for you to grow as an actor and to respond to the demands of the business?

I kind of dived into it and dived right out. I lived in an old town in England that didn't have an entertainment scene. Some children enjoyed that naturally. I wouldn't recommend it. It's more like I couldn't shake it rather than I pursued it. But it's a different kind of addiction.

Who do you think would win in a fight between Batman and Wolverine?

Give it 15 years. My career and Hugh's career will be dead; we'll have beer bellies and we'll decide to make a direct-to-video Batman and Wolverine movie. When we have that complete decline in our careers, we'll decide who wins!

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October 28, Saturday
- 3pm: COP Manila
- 6pm: COP Manila
October 29, Sunday
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Women in Business Home-based livelihood projects	Chona Lachica DTI-Training Officer	Saturday Oct 28	9-1030AM	Audio Visual Room
My Girl Young People: Living Straight and Living Right	Jinky Areola Fe Baluran Nini Jumalon	Saturday Oct 28	9-1030AM	Room 2
Total Woman Balancing Priorities: Work, Family, and Ministry	Ptra. Julie Javier Christine Abcede	Saturday Oct 28	1030-12NN	Room 2
Singles: Not giving in to the pressure of romance.	Ptra. Irene Valles Flor Buna	Saturday Oct 28	1030-12NN	Choir Room
911 for Moms Administering first-aid to emergencies at home	TJ Lopez Red-Cross Member	Saturday Oct 28	1030-12NN	Audio Visual Room

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SUPER! EXCLUSIVE

HUGH JACKMAN VS. CHRISTIAN BALE:

From dark avengers to feuding tricksters

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit

MAGIC FACE-OFF! CHRISTian Bale and Hugh Jackman play warring magicians, an obsessed pair locked in a cycle of envy and revenge in "The Prestige." As Alfred Borden and Robert Angier, respectively, the actors effortlessly slip into contrasting personalities with similarly sinister objectives. Ditching their costumed screen identities of Batman and Wolverine temporarily, Bale and Jackman join director Christopher Nolan ("Batman Begins," "Memento") and actors Michael Caine, Scarlett Johansson, Andy Serkis and David Bowie in the dark, complex Victorian-era thriller.

Prior to appearing as dueling artisans in "The Prestige," Bale and Jackman have breathed life into choice roles through the years, so they're no strangers to different levels of convincing illusory techniques. Chameleon-like actor Bale debuted in Steven Spielberg's "Empire of the Sun," and later appeared in films like "Velvet Goldmine," "American Psycho," and "The Machinist." Of course, there's also last year's "Batman Begins," where he's the latest to don the mask of DC Comics' caped crusader. Versatile Aussie thespian Jackman, meanwhile, received a Tony Best Actor award for his portrayal of '70s singer-songwriter Peter Allen in the musical "The Boy From Oz." He appeared in "Kate and Leopold," and is famous for playing Marvel Comics' most popular mutant, Wolverine, in three "X-Men" movies.

In separate exclusive phone interviews, Jackman and Bale spoke about a few smoke-and-mirrors secrets behind the new film, as well as some of their future projects, including their eventual return to playing fierce, archetypal superheroes.

HUGH JACKMAN

How different is playing this magician role for you?

Chris Nolan is a phenomenal director, and it was an engaging, smart story. The character is different for me; it was very challenging for me because, as you've seen, he became quite dark.

Having done a series of action movies, how refreshing was it to do "The Prestige"?

It's really a surprise for me, to be honest, having a career in action films. I thought I'd do more roles like the one I played in this movie. I find myself pretty much attracted to things that are more challenging. It's a great opportunity.

Please describe Christopher Nolan's directing style, and the shooting atmosphere.

Chris Nolan is one of the directors I respect the most. There's a lot of freedom working with him. Working with him is easy because of the relaxed, low-key set conditions. It's not complicated; there was no ego, no screaming involved.

Your character and Christian Bale's had an ongoing bitter rivalry. How was it off-screen?

I love Christian Bale. I've always been a big fan. He's very brave, very truthful. He's really fantastic. We've got a rivalry in the movie, but we're actually good friends. My kids play with his kid.

Do you have plans to appear in movies for children, stuff that you can easily show to your kids?

They're very young and can't watch my movies yet but I got to do two movies, "Flushed Away" and "Happy Feet," that they might enjoy. It's wonderful, the freedom to switch for four hours (as a voice actor). It's very different; there's no makeup!

How tough is doing theater, compared to acting in films?

With theater, the hardest thing to actually do is make them believe while you're vocalizing, but it's easy if you get past that hurdle. I enjoy doing both. It's greedy, but I'd like to open as many doors as I can.

How is the "Wolverine" spinoff doing, and how do you feel about being associated most with the character?

We now have the script. We're looking for a director. I'm very privileged to play Wolverine. I love it. It's quite different from real life, because I don't look like him at all. People don't always recognize me.

How involved are you with your characters' stunts?

A lot. They're very physically challenging. I love them.

How do you unwind?

I love watching movies. I watch DVDs. I watch DVDS of TV shows; sometimes I can't really watch TV because I have kids. It's been two months since I watched TV. I have a very, very

FROM DARK/ D3

BAYO

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ Guinness lists record-breaking feats in the movies /E2

CAYABYAB. Vows to call a spade a spade, a sour note a sour note.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Ryan riled at unsound verdicts on 'Philippine Idol'

By Nestor U. Torre

FRUSTRATION GOT THE better of the usually composed and patient Ryan Cayabyab last Sunday on "Philippine Idol," when the show's text-voters *again* voted out one of the better finalists in the singing competition.

We understood how Mr. C felt, because we had reached our own frustration level *weeks* before. That was when we wrote our piece, "The Thrill is Going, Going..." to express our disappointment with the way the show was faring (or, more properly, failing).

Popularity contest

The problem with the show continues to fester: It's supposed to be a search for the best singer, but its text-vote mechanism in sequentially choosing its surviving finalists reduces it mainly to a popularity contest.

Nothing wrong with popularity, but it's possible that some finalists' very strong and organized "text-vote-generating machines" result in verdicts that don't really reflect some surviving singers' popularity with the viewing public, only the deep pockets of their supporters.

Consequently, some gifted singers are constantly at risk, while their lesser counterparts survive from week to week. So, what are the jurors and viewers who want to honor genuine talent to do?

Although he realizes that "viewers don't really listen to us," Mr. C declared last Sunday that he was so frustrated with the way that text votes were kicking out the better singers that starting this weekend, he would be more openly critical of finalists' errors in performance than before.

Criticism

In other words, he would call a spade a spade, and a sour note a sour note, and hope that his more forthright criticism would encourage text-voters to take their task in choosing the most deserving contenders more responsibly.

We wish Ryan well in his new initiative. For our part, however, we still view "Philippine Idol" from time to time, but we no longer get excited—or exercised—over its weekly verdicts.

How can you pay much credence to a selection process that, so early in the finalist round, puts an obviously outstanding singer like Gian Magdangal at risk? Gian was one of the two finalists who got the lowest text-votes last weekend, and he just barely survived (while Raymond Sajor was eliminated).

Prospects

So, we no longer invest our trust and emotions in the flawed or co-opted process, and just grumble as we watch it unfold. But, our heart goes to the better singers in the tilt, who may not prosper as their prospects are overrun—*and* run over—by those putative text-vote-generating "machines."

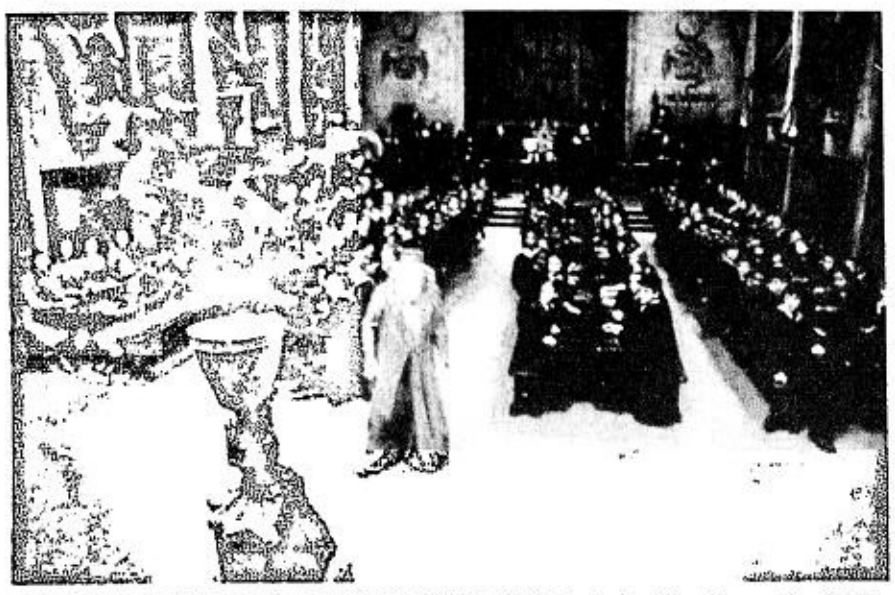
For his part, Ryan is not yet as benumbed or defeatist, and vows to use his considerable reputation to support the gifted and diss the deficient.

So, will he be more openly, feistily critical in his comments? Will our Mr. C transform himself into "American Idol's" own Mr. C (Simon Cowell), who is "famous" for his "tough-love" critiques of that original talent search's own finalists? Keep watching!

Guinness lists record-bre

"HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS." Top-grossing Christmas movie.

"REVENGE OF THE SITH." Highest box-office take on opening day.



"HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE." Fastest-selling live-action DVD.

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR THANKS TO NATIONAL BOOKstore's Ms Socorro Ramos for giving us a copy of "Guinness World Records 2007." We'd like to share some interesting items in the book, especially in the area of motion pictures:

Guinness has adjudged the Most Expensive Movie Ever Made to be the 2005 "King Kong"—at $207 million, compared to $200 million each for "Titanic" (1997) and "Spider-Man 2."

Salary

Highest salary ever paid to a film director prior to production: The $20 million Peter Jackson earned for megging "The Lord of the Rings."

Most Oscars for a movie: "Ben-Hur" won 11 in 1959, and its record was matched by "Titanic" in 1997. More recently, it became a three-way tie when "The Return of the of the King" won all 11 of its nominations.

Most prolific screenwriter? Safa Onal (Turkey) wrote scripts for 395 films made between 1969 and 2004.

(*Second* most prolific screenwriter? We'd like to nominate Filipino scriptwriter, Humilde "Meek" Roxas. He penned so many movie scripts that, in only one year, he wrote or co-wrote more than 20 screenplays! Meek was active as a screenwriter for decades, which means he wrote hundreds of scripts in the course of his career.)

Highest box-office gross on opening day—"Revenge of the Sith," 2005, which made $50,013,859. The "Star

Sleepless i

By Rito P. Asilo

EARLY THIS MONTH, WE FLEW TO Colombo, the administrative capital of Sri Lanka, to sing in Monique Wilson's special concert, "Music of the Night," a fund-raising project organized jointly by The Charity Committee, Cinnamon Grand Hotel and Cathay Pacific Airlines, to raise funds for children with cancer in that South Asian capital.

Monique's other guest performer was child star Julia Abueva, who had acted with us in the recent Manila and Singapore staging of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love."

Exotic

In recent years, the exotic Ceylonese capital has been in the news because of the raging civil war between the Sinhalese-dominated government and Tamil separatists, and the tsunamis triggered by the Indian Ocean earthquake (that killed and displaced 40,000 people) in 2004.

It's a pity a nation (population: 18 million) so rich in natural beauty and culture is overshadowed by war and natural calamity. (An ancient center of Buddhism, it's also known for its cinnamon and tea, and enjoys the highest literacy rate in South Asia—96 percent!)

We arrived in Sri Lanka at midnight after a dizzying flight that had two stopovers (Hong Kong and Thailand). The checkpoint-dotted urban capital transported us back to our childhood years in Davao in the '70s at the height of Marcos' martial law regime: You could roam the streets, but you couldn't shake off the feeling of being watched.

But, the appreciative and attentive audience (made up mostly of expats and locals, along with a small group of cheering Filipinos), and the hospitality of the elegant women behind The Charity Committee made our short stay special and unique, even if unfinished business back home kept us holed up—and sleepless—in our posh hotel room, hooked up to our computer.

Love duets

Performing with Monique has always been an exciting experience: It was a treat to sing the popular love duets of "Miss Saigon" with her, and we worked up the crowd in the "Seasons of Lo[ve]" number from "Rent," as our accompanist, Michelle Nicolasora, gamely hammed it up at the piano.

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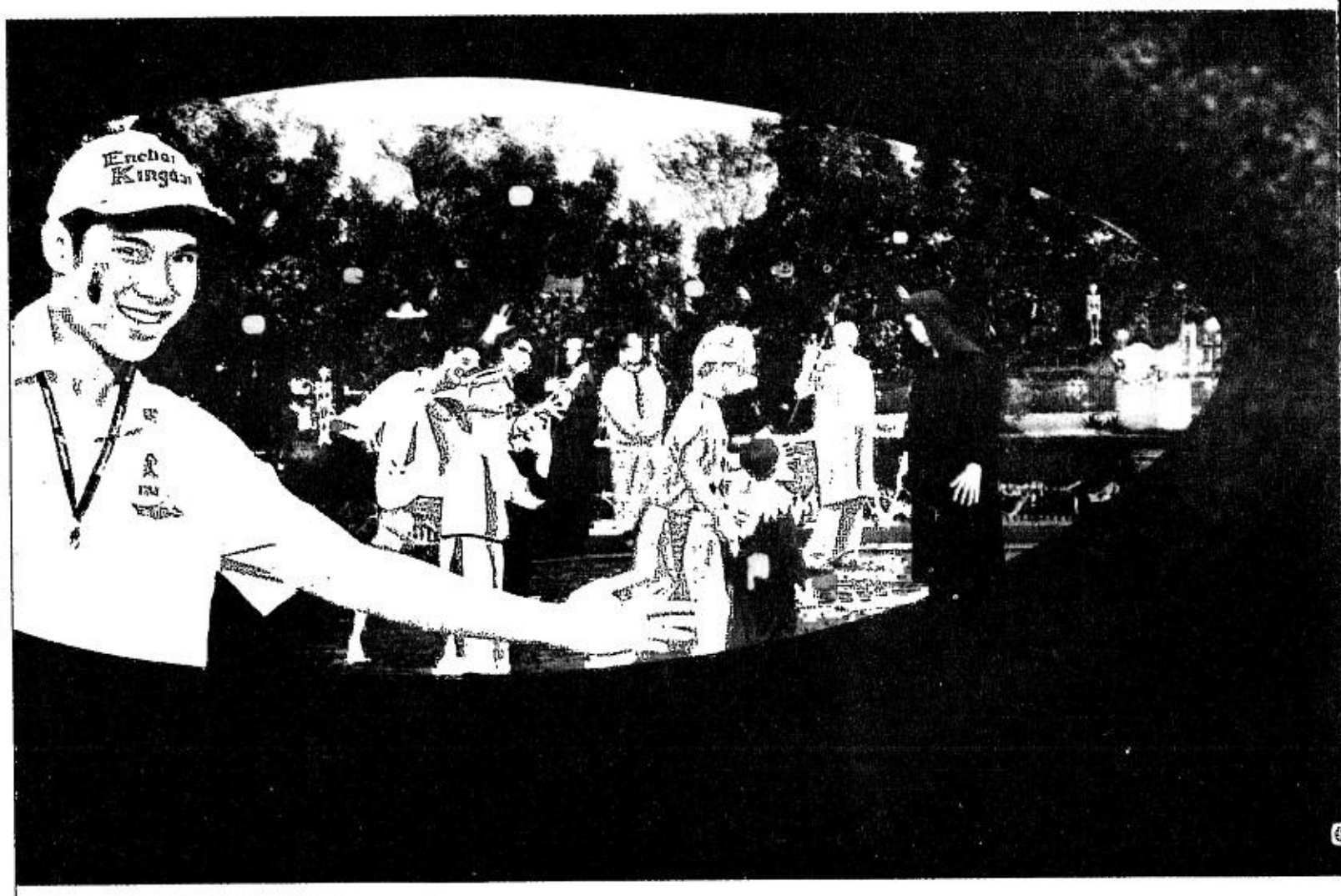

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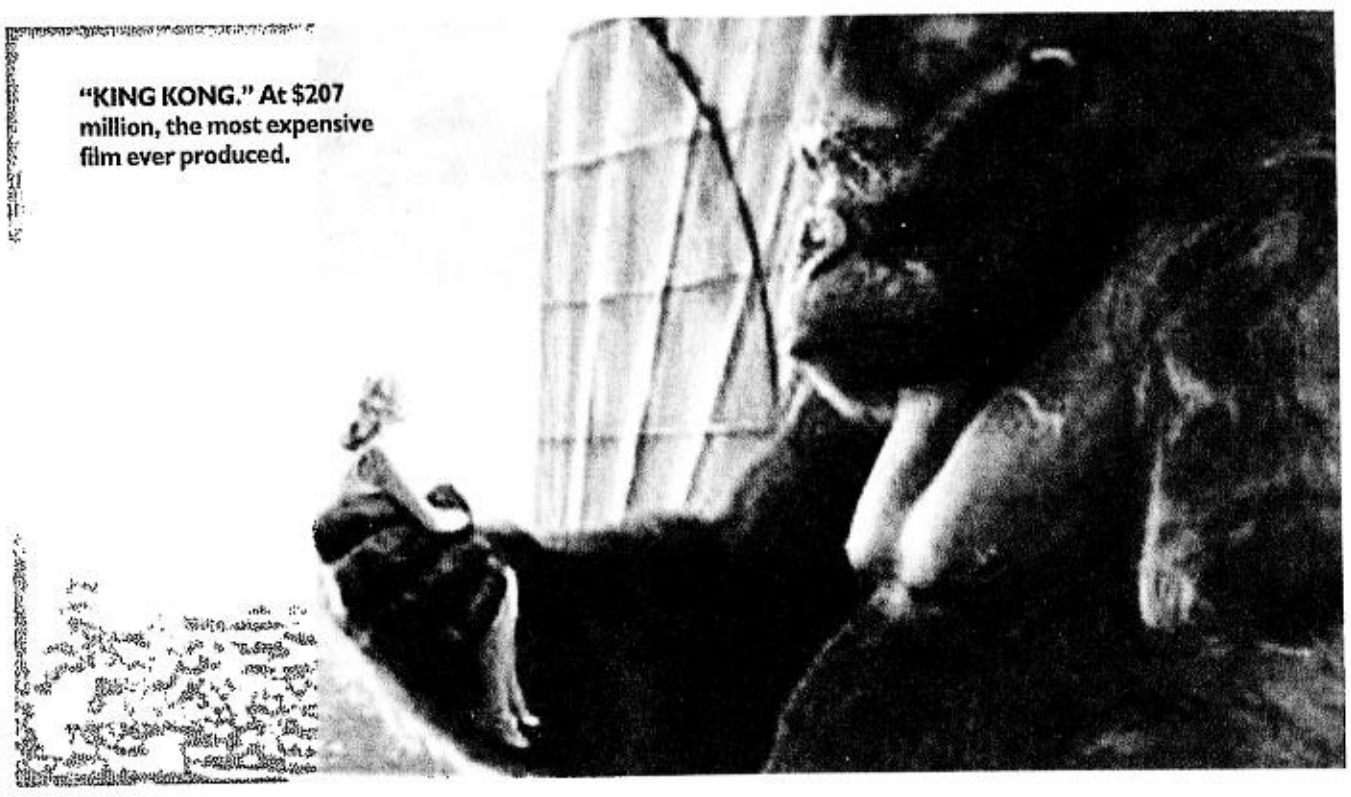
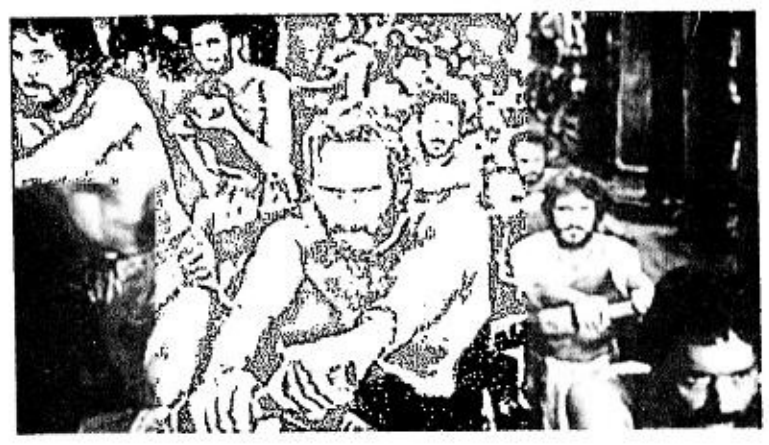
aking feats in the movies



"KING KONG." At $207 million, the most expensive film ever produced.



"BEN-HUR." Won 11 Oscars in 1959.

Wars—Episode 3" film was shown in 3,661 theaters in the States.

Film producer with highest earnings in one year—George Lucas. In 2004, the "Star Wars" director-producer earned an estimated $290 million!

34 films

Highest-grossing living novelist in the movies—Stephen King. Thirty-four films have been made from King's novels and stories, and they grossed $835.9 million at the international box office—an average of $24.5 million per film. King's highest-grossing story is "The Green Mile (1999). The Tom Hanks starrer earned $287 million worldwide.

Fastest-selling live-action DVD—"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." The DVD sold more than six copies a second on its day of release in the United Kingdom, on March 20 this year. It also sold more than five million copies on March 7, its first day of release in America.

115 territories

Largest simultaneous premiere—"Revenge of the Sith," which was simultaneously released in a record 115 territories around the world on May 19 last year. The movie went on to gross $303 million internationally.

Top-grossing Christmas movie—"How the Grinch Stole Christmas," 2000. The film was budgeted at $123 million, and grossed $340 million!

, Sri Lanka

CARICATURE BY LA MISTADES

Honed by 26 years' worth of experience as a performer, Monique is never frazzled by anything, and she makes performing look easy. (It's not!)

Julia, on the other hand, is always a joy to watch—and hear. She almost stole the show with her feisty renditions of "Tomorrow" and "Don't Rain on My Parade."

Of course, as a movie buff with a voracious cinematic appetite, we couldn't leave Sri Lanka without visiting video shops for local and foreign films. Take our word for it: The titles are never the same, whether you're in London, Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai, Bangkok—or Colombo. (We even took a short peek at an unsubtitled, family-oriented local film, "Elephant and Me.")

Dramatic feature

To our delight, we found these titles: From India, Jahnu Barua's dramatic feature, "I Did Not Kill Gandhi," Krutin Patel's "ABCD," and Aparna Sen's majestically photographed "Mr. and Mrs. Iyer," which we first saw at the Cinemanila film festival, where it won best screenplay, some years ago. (It went on to reap more honors in Locarno and Hawaii.)

Like Ashutosh Gowariker's Oscar-nominated "Lagaan," these movies don't feature Bollywood's patented song-and-dance production numbers. To be fair, we also enjoyed Sanjay Bhansali's musical saga about timeless love, "Devdas," starring Shahrukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai.

We also found original copies of Sri Lanka's internationally acclaimed films, whose recurring themes of war, displacement and poverty have caused a stir at film festivals in Singapore, Fribourg and Manila: Inoka Sathyangani's "The Wind Birds," and Prasanna Vithanage's "August Sun" and "Death on a Full Moon Day."

Debut

Other titles: Rassul Ameli's Berlin and Cairo-winning "The Girl in the Sneakers" (Iran); Vicente Aranda's latest film, "Tirante El Blanco" (Spain-Italy), and Tonie Marshall's 1999 French feature, "Venus Beauty Institute," Audrey Tautou's career-making film debut.

We may have been sleepless in Colombo, but those work-heavy nights were nevertheless memorable—and, yes, fulfilling!

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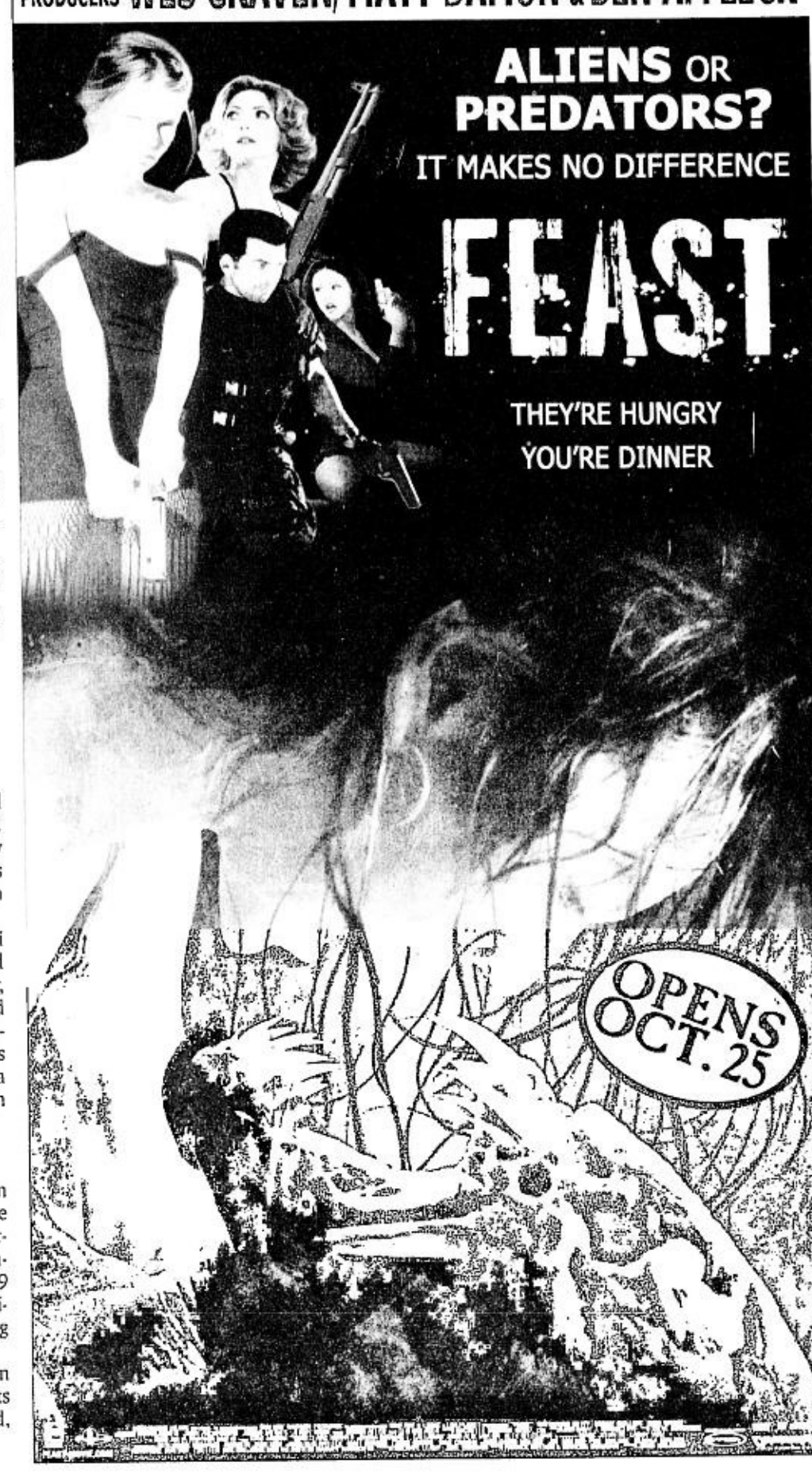

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Long-distance love story

THE TAMAYOS. Electronic courtship.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

CANDIE IS YOUNG AND USED TO BE a skeptic: She did not believe in long-distance love affairs. Two years ago, she took a break from her work at ABS-CBN and flew to San Francisco, California to visit her dad. She didn't know that this trip would change her life forever. For her, the song, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," came to life.

Familiar

While in a club with cousins, Candie met her soul mate, Archie. She thought he looked familiar—it was as if they'd already met. For some reason, she felt a connection with him. But, she immediately dismissed the idea, because he lived halfway across the world.

Back at work in Manila, Candie got an invitation from Archie to be his friend on Friendster. She was thrilled—and an electronic courtship began.

One summer, Archie came home for a visit. The two spent a lot of time together, and got to know each other even more. Then, they realized they both wanted more than just friendship.

Future

When Archie flew back to the States, he began calling Candie everyday. They would talk for hours. She slowly opened herself up to a long-distance relationship. Candie learned to savor the present, even if the future seemed unclear.

Archie came back to Manila a year after they met in San Francisco—to ask Candie if she was willing to spend the rest of her life with him. She knew without a doubt that she wanted nothing more than that.

Recently, Candie Ricafort Supnet and Archie Casipit Tamayo tied the knot in a Christian wedding in Tagaytay City.

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SABADO

Wowowee 1pm
Makiki-Christmas carol si **wowoWillie** with the **Bulilit kids!**
At bibigyan si Willie ng platinum award para sa Christmas album niya.
Special guest: Joyce Jimenez

Nagmamahal Kapamilya
Abangan ang mga kwento ni TV host **Kathleen De Leon,**
ng isang **Coconut Entrepreneur**
at ni World Wrestling superstar **Batista.**

Let's Go
Alamin ang tsismis na kumakalat sa GO KADAI

Star Magic Presents "My Friend, My Lover"
Starring: **Rayver Cruz** at **Shaina Magdayao**
Ano ang gagawin mo kung mahulog ang loob mo sa iyong best friend?

Komiks Presents: Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko

John En-Shirley
Imbitado ka sa kasal ko kay **Bea Alonzo!**

TV Patrol Sabado
Maraming balita ang dito mo lang nababalitaan.

XXX
Ibubunyag ang mga pekeng barya!

Pinoy Dream Academy
Sino ang magpapaalam sa 6th Expulsion Night?

Aalog-alog
Paano na ang Barangay Taniman
kung papalitan si Chairman?
Guest Star: **Dennis Padilla**

Sports Unlimited
Into the wild sa South African Expedition,
Part 3.

LINGGO

ASAP '06 12nn
ASAP '06 celebrates the movies!

Your Song
features **KASI NAMAN** by **Nikki Gil**
Starring: **Zanjoe Marudo** and **Mariel Rodriguez**
Magtatagumpay ba ang pag-iibigan kung may kontrabidang biyenan?

Love Spell
Invited kayo sa 1st spellbinding episode ng
HOME SWITCH HOME
Starring: **Angelica Panganiban • Maja Salvador**
John Wayne Sace • Jason Abalos
Frank Garcia • Jake Cuenca

The Buzz
Isang dosenang kumpirmasyon
mula sa mga kontrobersyal na artista!

Goin' Bulilit
Mabibilis na patawa sa Fast Food episode.

TV Patrol Linggo

Rated K Handa Na Ba Kayo?
Lahat ng uso sa 2006 malalaman mo!

Sharon
Kwentuhan ng buhay OFW
kasama sina **Erik Santos** at **Pokwang.**

Pinoy Dream Academy
Sinu-sino ang bagong probationary scholars?

Sunday's Best
Star Olympics 20 on 2
One Force. One Water. *(Part 2)*

WEEKDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Ito ang bagong **ALL-TIME BIGTIME.**
Ka-kasayahan ng mas maraming Pilipino!

Homeboy 10:40am

Pilipinas, Game KNB?

Wowowee

Kapamilya Cinema

Monday	ULTIMATUM
Tuesday	CARA Y CRUZ
Wednesday	PAG-IBIG KO SA'YO, TOTOO
Thursday	OO NA, SIGE NA, MATIGIL KA LANG
Friday	MAGANDANG HATINGGABI

Pasion De Amor
Huling linggo ng #1 telenovelang kaypapainit
sa hapon mo!

NOYPI, IKAW BA 'TO? Tuwing Lunes
(New timeslot)
Isang palabas na ipapakita sa mundo
ang totoong katauhan ng isang Pilipino.
Hosted by **Gabe Mercado**

PRIMETIME BIDA

Pangako Sa'yo
Balikan ang kwento nina *Angelo* **(Jericho Rosales),**
Yna **(Kristine Hermosa),** *Amor Powers* **(Eula Valdez)**
at *Madam Claudia* **(Jean Garcia)**

TV Patrol World
Ang ka-balitaan ng mas maraming Pilipino sa buong bansa at buong mundo.

Kapamilya Deal or No Deal
Makukuha na kaya ang 2 million na jackpot?

Super Inggo
Magkakalat na ng lagim ang Evil Refrigerator!

Maging Sino Ka Man
Ang karugtong ng pag-ibig ay sakripisyo.
Ipapakita ng powerhouse cast:
John Lloyd Cruz • Bea Alonzo
Anne Curtis • Sam Milby

Mas pinaaagang oras **Pinoy Dream Academy**
Pagaling nang pagaling ang mga scholars...
Patindi nang patindi ang drama sa likod ng pangarap.

Crazy For You
Guguluhin ng kontrabidang si *Sabrina* **(Michelle Madrigal)**
sina *Wacky* **(Luis Manzano)** at *Janice* **(Toni Gonzaga)**

Maalaala Mo Kaya (Tuwing Biyernes)
Ang kwento ng Berdugo.
John Estrada • Ryan Eigenmann • Lotlot De Leon

Hosted by
Ms. Charo Santos-Concio

SATURDAY special

NOW SHOWING

Horror and hope

By Rito P. Asilo

LOCSIN, SOTTO AND TRILLO. Topbill Michael Tuviera's directorial debut.

"Txt"

D: Michael Tuviera
S: Angel Locsin, Dennis Trillo, Oyo Sotto,

AFTER HER BOYFRIEND, ROMAN (OYO Sotto), dies in a car accident, Joyce (Angel Locsin), starts getting calls made from the former's mobile phone. The familiar voice at the other end of the line asks, "*Bakit malamig dito?*"

Soon after, Joyce is spooked by alarming text and MMS messages from her deceased boyfriend, who stalks and reminds her that they belong together. Grief-stricken and in need of a shoulder to cry on, she turns to Alex (Dennis Trillo), a call center agent, and Ida (Julia Clarete), who works with her in a hospice.

As the story unravels, we get a glimpse of Roman in flashbacks as a hot-tempered, overly possessive man, who once vowed to kill anyone who would threaten his relationship with Joyce.

One by one, people who speak ill of the protagonist's dead boyfriend also start getting the mysterious calls themselves, and then turn up dead. Soon, the body count mounts! To Joyce's horror, she is sent picture messages of the victims—and how they die! She has to decipher how to overturn her hexed fate to save the lives of her friends—and hers, as well.

Touted by its makers as "a truly original Filipino horror movie," this techno-horror flick isn't *really* that original. In fact, Takashi Miike's 2003 Japanese screamer, "One Missed Call" and Byeong-ki Ahn's 2002 Korean chiller, "The Phone," have both been shown locally—they're about killer phones that haunt their prey and "predict" its demise! Or, a similar premise using computers in Kiyoshi Kurosawa and Jim Sonzero's "Pulse."

Having said that, debuting director Michael Tuviera nevertheless shows a confident hand at creating an eerie mood that, despite the story's predictability, jars the senses. Like the recent "White Lady," the movie effectively utilizes lights, contrasting color hues and shadows to evoke an atmosphere of dread, and features fine turns from its cast:

Trillo is never awkward, but he takes his role too seriously and looks sullen all

HORROR/ F4

The only thing worse than sitting through a bad movie is standing through one.

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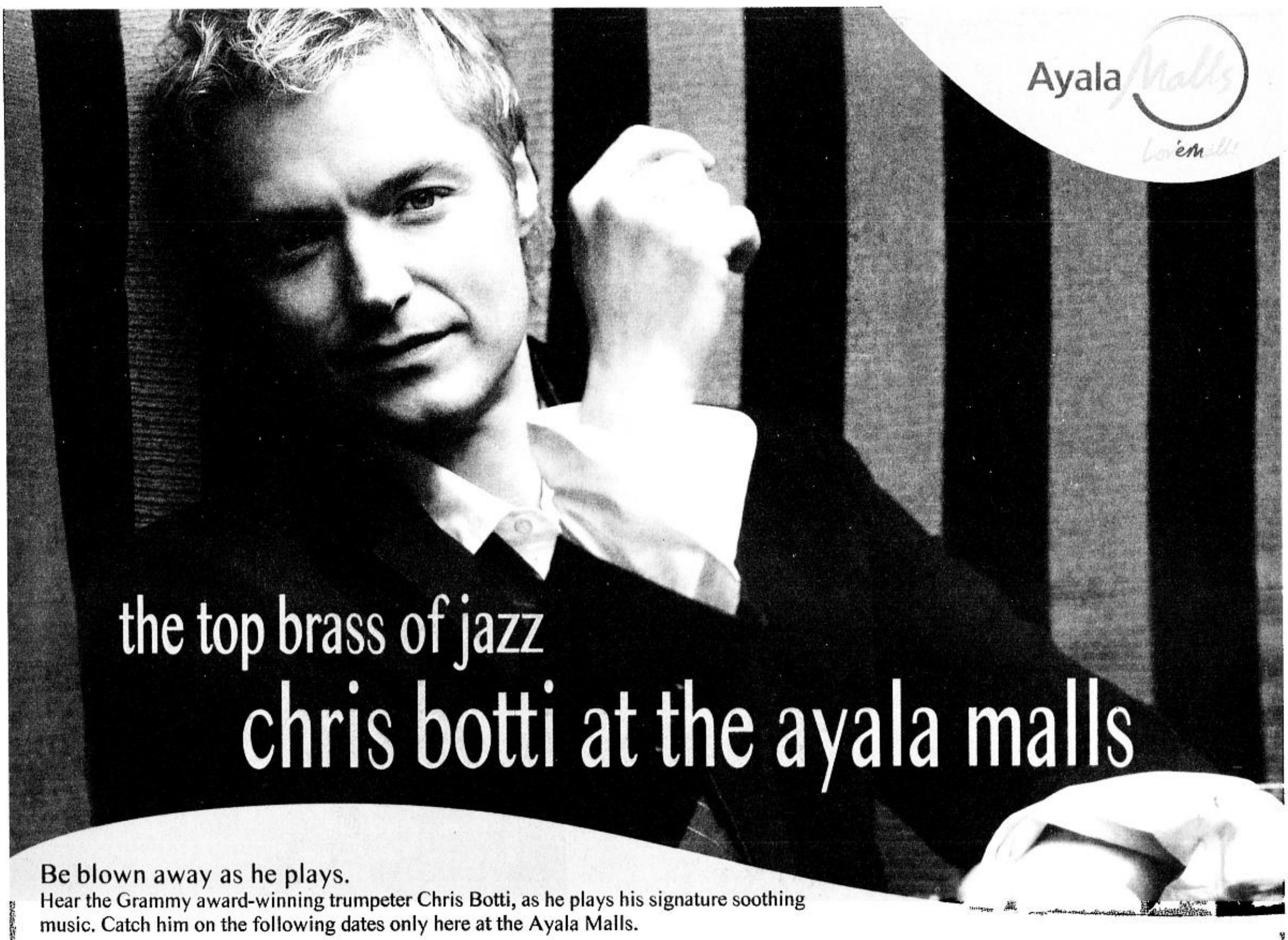
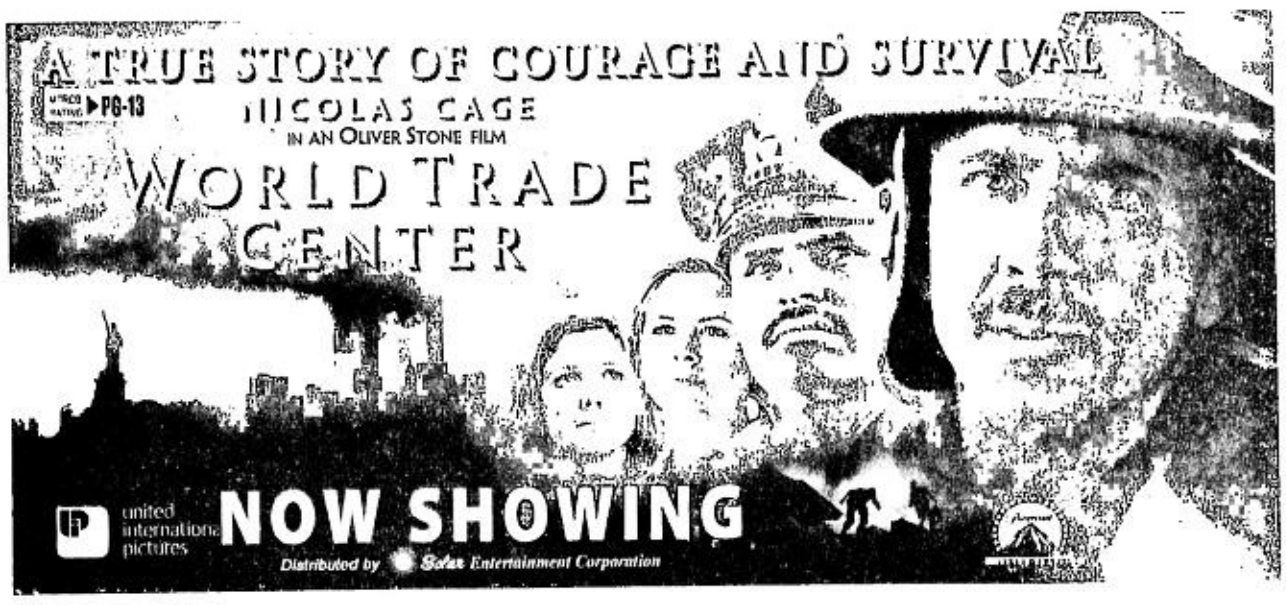
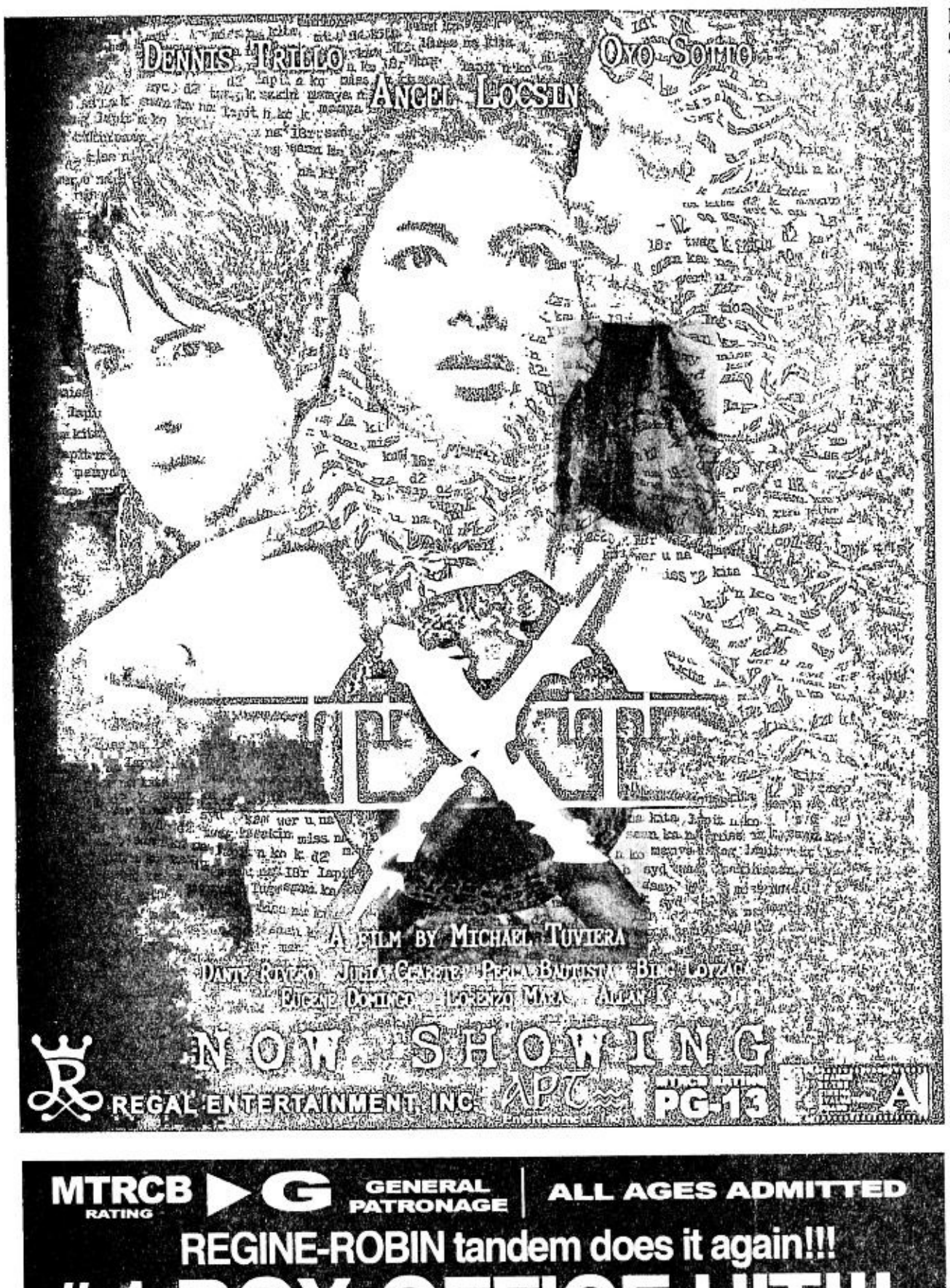


MONTAGE

Lea Salonga at the CCP

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES' major concert, "Tomorrow," will be performed anew at 8 tonight. The concert, which topbills Lea Salonga and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, is the CCP's biggest fundraising presentation this year, so everyone who wants to help the country's premier arts organization is enjoined to patronize the show. Call 832-1125.





'The Grudge 2'

"The Grudge 2" is a hauntingly disturbing film that explores dark secrets as a terrifying supernatural curse is unleashed. Aubrey Davis flies to Tokyo, Japan to bring home her sister, Karen, who's under investigation for the death of her boyfriend during a fire.

In Chicago, introverted Jake mourns the death of his mother, and isn't happy that his father has gotten engaged. He also doesn't understand why everyone in his apartment building is acting so strangely.

These and other stories interweave as the film's characters are infected by the malevolent curse that's moving out of the burned-out house in Tokyo, spreading to everyone who crosses its deadly path. Takeshi Shimizu's sequel stars Amber Tamblyn, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Takako Fuji and Ryo Ishibashi.

GELLAR. Topbills Takeshi Shimizu's chiller.

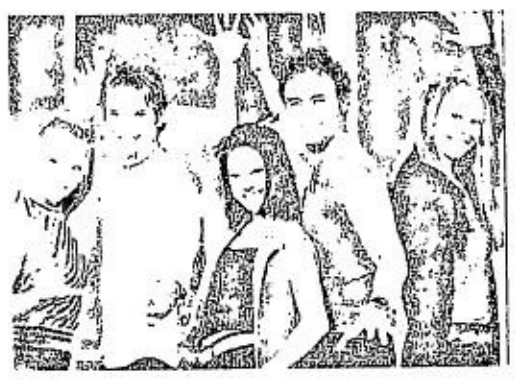
Chills and thrills at Camp Eerie

Nickelodeon's Camp Eerie treats kids to hair-raising fun from 10 a.m. to midnight on Oct. 31 at the SM Mall of Asia's Music Hall. The camp is filled with everything ghoulish and uncanny—the spine-tingling Spooktrail, the Forest of Fright, Danny Phantom's River of Shiver, the Eerie family crypt, etc.!

There will also be "Spook-tacular" live shows at 10:30 a.m., noontime, 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9 p.m., and 10:30 p.m., featuring Aurora the seer, Frankenslime, Wolfgang, the hairy fireball, and Melba, the half-vampire.

There will also be fireworks at midnight, and appearances by SpongeBob SquarePants and Patrick Stars.

For tickets for two to the event, purchase a minimum of P1,000 worth of toys at Toy Kingdom and Toy Express at the SM Mall of Asia.



"HI-5." Includes Filipina dancer-singer-actress, Kathleen de Leon (center).

Concert for charity

At 3 and 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin, Oriental Manila, The Philippine-Japan Camaraderie Association presents a charity concert topbilling popular Japanese singer, Mayo Shono, gospel singer Hal Zzhang, and violinist John Lesaca. Beneficiaries are high school graduates who will be trained at the Manpower Skill Training Center of Don Bosco Technical College in Mandaluyong City, in cooperation with the Santos-Ventura Hocorma Foundation. Call 851-7622.

On MGM Channel

Films on view in November on the MGM Channel Primetime include: Nov. 2, "Apache"; Nov. 4, "Teachers"; Nov. 6, "Wish You Were Here"; Nov. 10, "Palookaville"; Nov. 12, "After Midnight"; Nov. 13, "Sweet Smell of Success"; Nov. 19, "Zellig"; Nov. 22, "1984"; Nov. 25, "Under Fire"; Nov. 26, "Diary of a Hitman"; and Nov. 28, "I Shot Andy Warhol."

'Revelations'

Audioslave's third album, "Revelations," features the worldwide hit, "Original Fire." The album reveals a more overtly political band, particularly in the song, "Wide Awake."

'GamePlan'

At 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 22 on Studio 23, "GamePlan" visits Siargao island, with features on Cloud 9, the Crystal caves, Sahotan cove, Bucas Grande, surfing, yoga and kayaking.

'Barnyard'

The fun animated feature, "Barnyard," is set in a farm where the farmer thinks he's in charge. Unknown to him, when he's out of sight, the animals have the run of the place, and dance up a storm! Voice actors include Kevin James, Courtney Cox, Sam Elliott, Andie MacDowell and Danny Glover.

'Hi-5'

Australia's top pre-school show, "Hi-5," is now available on Viva videos. It's an entertaining and educational series for children aged two to eight years old, a vibrant mix of stories, investigation, imagination and adventure. Five energetic and talented performers are featured, including Filipina Kathleen de Leon. "Hi-5" is seen and enjoyed in 50 countries around the world.

Dance with CircuitAsia

Dance the night away in CircuitAsia's Salvation Gold Disco on Oct. 27 at the Philippine Trade Training Center on Roxas blvd, featuring DJs Per QX, Oli, Marie and DJ Tony Pavia. with a special performance from Groove Armada's Valerie M. Proceeds will benefit Gift Foundation, which advocates HIV/AIDS awareness and youth development. Call 889-7877, or log on to www.circuitasia.com.

Movies on TV

On HBO, today at 10:15 a.m., "Stand by Me." 11:20 a.m., "The Accidental Tourist." Tomorrow at 8 a.m., "Back to the Future, 2." Noontime, "Postcards form the Edge." Oct. 23 at 5:45 p.m., "Wag the Dog." Oct. 24 7:10 p.m., "The River Wild." 11:50 p.m., "Beetlejuice." Oct. 25 at 6:50 p.m., "Assassins." Oct. 26 at 1 p.m., "JFK." Oct. 27 at 3:30 p.m., "Darling Lily." 7:15 p.m., "McHale's Navy."

On Cinemax, today at 10:55 p.m., "The Last Samurai." Tomorrow at 6:30 a.m.. "Mister Roberts." Oct. 23 at 6:30 a.m., "The Birds." Oct. 24 at 6:30 a.m., "Cape Fear." 4:15 p.m.. "The World of Suzie Wong." Oct. 25 at 8 p.m., "The School of Rock." Oct. 26 6 a.m., "It's A Wonderful Life." 4:30 p.m., "Arlington Road." Oct. 27 at 6:30 a.m., "The Eddy Duchin Story."

Encounters with Sellers, Radcliffe, Schwarzenegger and the Queen

By Rito P. Asilo

MIRIAM MARGOLYES' NAME MAY NOT IMmediately ring a bell. But, you most probably have seen this prolific, 65-year-old, Bafta-winning British character actress in one of the films you've viewed—from Chris Columbus' "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" (as Prof. Sprout) and Martin Scorsese's "The Age of Innocence" (Mrs. Mingott) to Baz Luhrmann's "Romeo + Juliet" (The Nurse) and Barbra Streisand's "Yentl" (Sarah). She is currently playing Madame Morrible in the smash musical, "Wicked," on the West End in London.

Show Biz Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

Early this week, we had a grand time interviewing the actress by phone to talk about HBO's Emmy-winning original, Stephen Hopkins' **"The Life and Death of Peter Sellers,"** about the English actor who found worldwide fame as the loony Inspector Jacques Clouseau in Blake Edwards' "The Pink Panther" comedy franchise.

Domineering mother

Starring Geoffrey Rush as the hot-tempered, womanizing and wife-beating actor, Charlize Theron (as Sellers' second wife, Britt Ekland), Emily Watson (as first wife Anne), John Lithgow (as Edwards), Stanley Tucci (as legendary filmmaker, Stanley Kubrick) and Margolyes as Sellers' domineering mother, Peg, the made-for-TV movie is a searing and disturbing portrait of one of cinema's most enigmatic actors. This must-see biopic earned Rush an Emmy and a Golden Globe as best actor, and premieres on HBO on Nov. 7 at 9 p.m.

Margoyles was kind, honest and articulate—and had a delightful sense of humor. Here are excerpts from our Q&A:

You play Peg Sellers in the film. Was it hard to play a nonfictional character?

I have played a real person before (Gertrude Stein), so I was aware of the sense of responsibility to get it right. From the outside, she seemed like a monster, but I had to find the motivation behind her actions: She came from the shabby end of show biz. She wasn't an actress, she posed in tableaux for magicians.

Pathological longing

It was clear that her sense of disappointed ambition had very much influenced Peter Sellers' almost pathological longing for fame. She instilled in him the absolute driving force to succeed, which was alarming and, eventually, destructive and damaging to the man himself.

Have you worked with him? Do you think he was a genius?

I have never met him, and I don't think I would have liked to. He was a very peculiar and unpleasant man, he was complex. However, there's one thing we do share: We both started our careers on radio. It's fascinating to realize that, from his humble beginning of being on a radio comedy series, he became a sex symbol. I don't think that's ever going to happen to me, by the way. *(Laughs)*

His work on radio was absolutely fantastic. He was charismatic, but I'm not sure if he was that great an actor. I liked him in "Dr. Strangelove."

Fantastic job

I couldn't imagine how the film could come together, but it did. The director did a fantastic job, and I was thrilled to see Geoffrey win awards for his performance, because he was brilliant! However good the script and the other actors' performances were, they wouldn't have mattered if he didn't deliver a glorious performance.

Did your perception of Sellers change after doing the movie?

No, no, no. I thought he was slightly mad. His behavior was so bizarre, I would hate to have had anything to do with him. His work was not good enough for him to behave that way.

You have a magnificent body of work. How was it working with Martin Scorsese ("The Age of Innocence"), Mike Newell ("The Awakening," "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire") and Baz Luhrmann ("Romeo + Juliet")? What was Barbra Streisand ("Yentl") like as director and actor?

Oh, I thought you said I had a magnificent body! *(Laughs)* I feel lucky to have worked with outstanding directors. They have very different methods: Martin was very quiet, as was Baz. Mike was an extrovert, his style was very Italian.

Commitment

But, the director above all others is Istvan Szabo, who directed "Being Julia" (where Annette Bening won her most recent Academy Award nomination). Barbra was wonderful. Her artistic commitment and enormous attention to detail were admirable.

You've worked with some of the most successful actors in Hollywood. Please describe them in a word or two? Let's start with Leonardo DiCaprio, who was with you in "Romeo + Juliet"...

A lovely boy, I love him. He's cheeky and fun-loving. A very intelligent sweetheart.

Daniel Radcliffe ("Harry Potter")?

He's absolutely charming. He comes from a very nice, middle-class family, he has perfect manners and possesses a sense of decency and humility. Very refreshing.

Keanu Reeves ("I Love You to Death")?

I can't remember him at all! I may not have had scenes with him. I have fond memories of Kevin Kline, though, who played my son in that movie.

Mandy Moore ("Chasing Liberty")?

The girl is lovely! I was surprised, in a way. She was brought up properly: Extremely polite, intelligent, talented and well-behaved—which is not really how we see young celebrities nowadays.

Arnold Schwarzenegger ("The End of Days")?

I didn't like him much. But, he was very professional, he got on with the job, and was very helpful to me.

He shared with me various ways to fall down and throw a punch, which I haven't had to do before or since. I don't share his politics and the way he looks at the world.

Ralph Fiennes ("Sunshine")?

He was wonderful, completely delightful.

You were recently accorded the Order of the British Empire for your contributions to drama. Did you get it from Queen Elizabeth II herself? Can you share with us mere mortals how that went?

I actually received it from Prince Charles, because at the time, the queen was in mourning for her mother, who had just died, so she wasn't tending investitures then. But, I have met the queen on a couple of occasions. The first one was horrible because she told me to be quiet, because I was talking too much. That was very alarming! *(Laughs)*

Last row

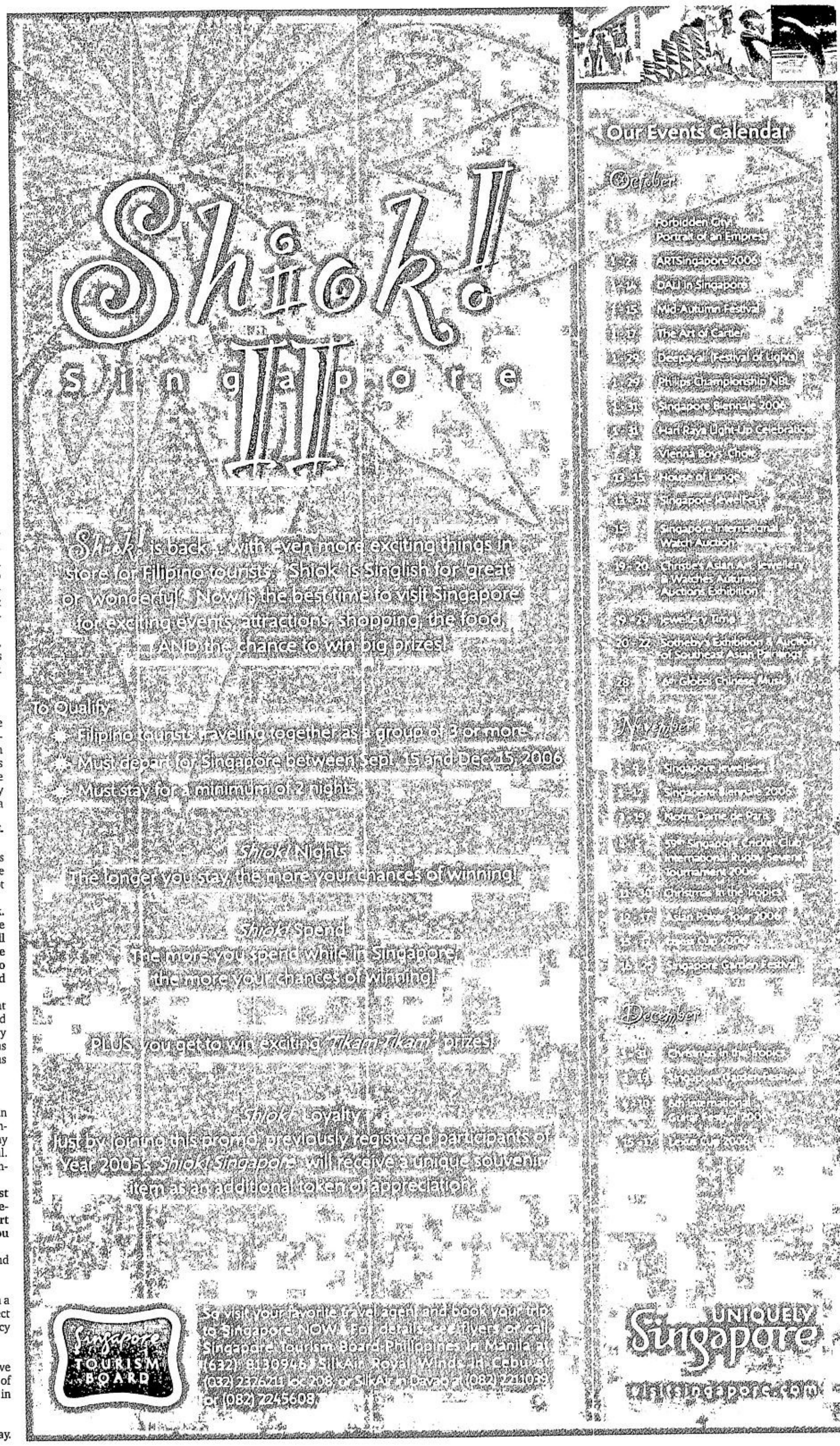
The second time was delightful. Her majesty attended the premiere of my movie with Dames Maggie Smith and Judy Dench, "Ladies in Lavender." She was kind enough to talk to me as she extricated herself from her seat.

She said: "You must have great fun staying in the last row...," to which I replied, "Oh yes, I did, your majesty." Then, she stepped out! I really like Prince Charles, a most delightful man. But, I don't know if I want to meet the queen again. *(Laughs)*

What continues to drive you in your career?

I don't know how to answer that...I love acting. I'm probably coming towards the end of my life and career, but it gives me joy. I feel privileged to be doing something that I like—and earning good money for it!

MARGOLYES. Grateful for the blessings.



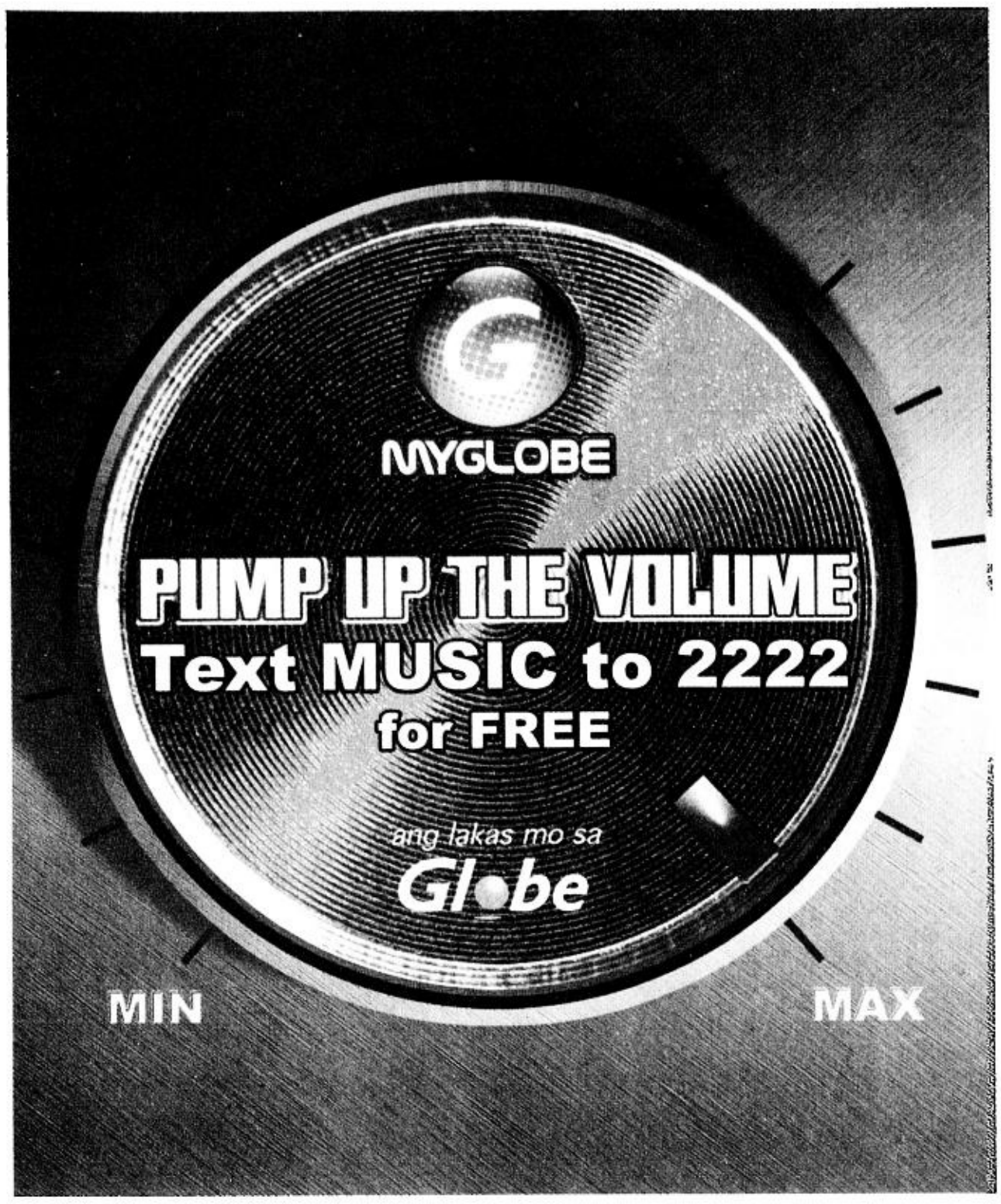
Songbird gets emotional in 'Twenty'

By Ronald G. Mangubat

REGINE VELASQUEZ, ARGUABLY THE MOST SUCCESSful singer in the country today, unabashedly cried twice in her recent concert, "Twenty," at the Araneta Coliseum. The show celebrates two colorful decades of success in the business.

After an operetta-inspired opening, where Velasquez sang about her humble beginnings, and the joys and pains of a performer, she got emotional during her opening spiel.

"*Marami noon ang nagsabing hindi ako magtatagumpay, kasi hindi daw ako kagandahan, at hindi pa marunong mag-Ingles,*" she confessed to a crowd that applauded her honesty and spontaneity. "*Akala ko, naubos ko na ang luha ko kagabi* (we watched the second night's show), *kaso, hindi ko mapigil, e!*"



Outburst

The second emotional outburst happened toward the last part of the show when, prior to singing Didith Reyes' "Bakit Ako Mahihiya?" (one of her winning pieces when she started joining singing contests), she narrated how her mother pawned an old ring so she and her father would have money for bus fare.

As her parents were shown on the video wall, she tearfully verbalized her gratitude: "*Nagpapasalamat po ako sa Diyos dahil kayo ang naging mga magulang ko. Mahal na mahal ko kayo!*"

Aside from those soggy moments, the two-hour musical treat was well-conceptualized and highly entertaining, with Velasquez doing what some singers fail to achieve—establish a strong connection to her audience.

Jokes

Admitting she was not in her element that night, with her speaking voice hoarse ("*...kasi itinodo ko ang pagkanta kagabi. Nasobrahan yata*"), she made fun of the situation by cracking jokes. "*Alam ko, wala akong gaanong boses ngayon, kaya dinadaan ko na lang sa ganda!*" And, to a member of the audience who kept shrieking at the top his voice, she retaliated: "*Mas mataas pa ang boses mo sa akin, bakla!*"

Regine compared her 20-year singing career to a love affair. In fact, she said it's been a series of "love affairs" between her and the people with whom she has shared her musical passion—composers, arrangers, co-singers, directors, photographers, even wardrobe designers.

Flirtatious looks

Her former musical arrangers/directors—Louie Ocampo, Tats Faustino and Gerard Salonga—joined her onstage to either play the piano or conduct the Manila Symphony Orchestra. Asia's Songbird also sang her hit duets—this time, with Jed Madela, Eric Santos, Gabby Eigenmann, Dennis Trillo, Mark Bautista and Shyrock's lead vocalist, Mark Tupas. Of course, to heighten the thrill,

VELASQUEZ. Much-deserved ovations.

Robin Padilla went up the stage to exchange flirtatious looks with Regine.

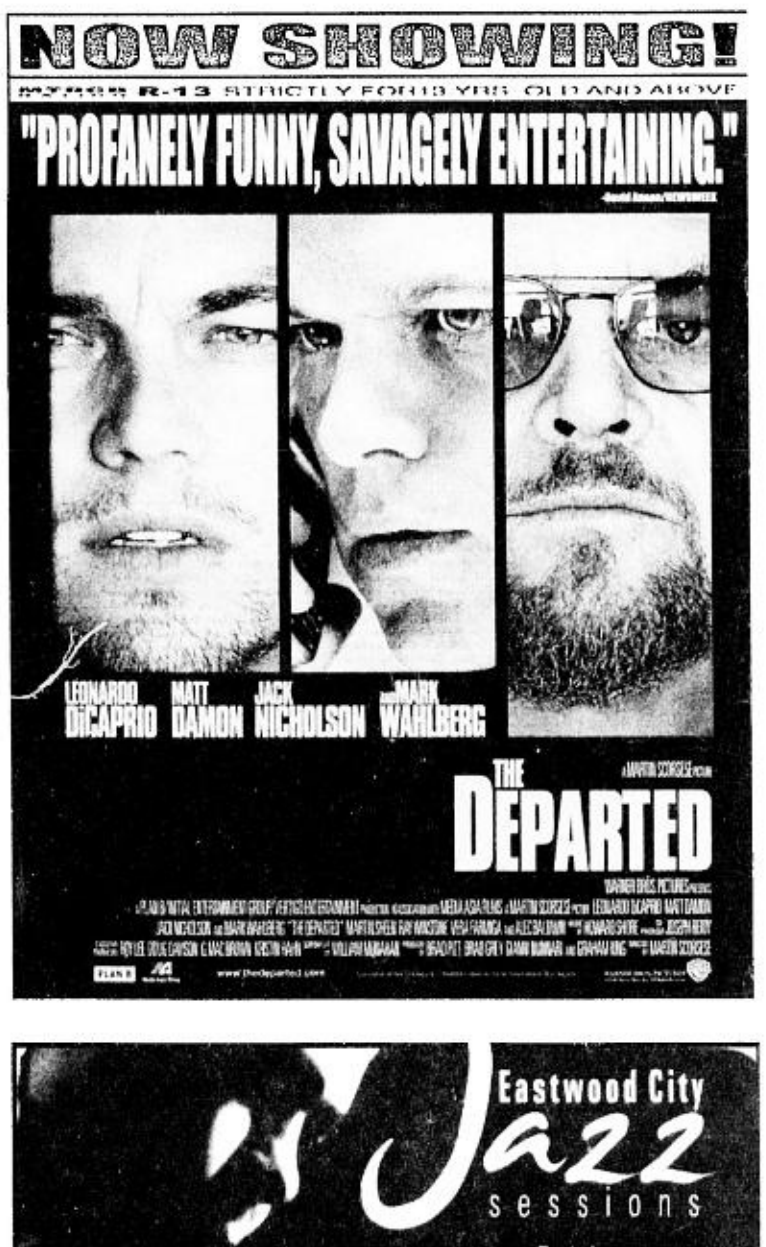
But, it was her trademark songs, made more famous by bravura belting, that elicited the most cheers from the responsive audience. While she mostly spoke in whispers during spiels, her ability to beautifully reach almost-impossible notes never failed to impress. In a country where *birit* is regarded as a benchmark of good singing, Velasquez reigns supreme.

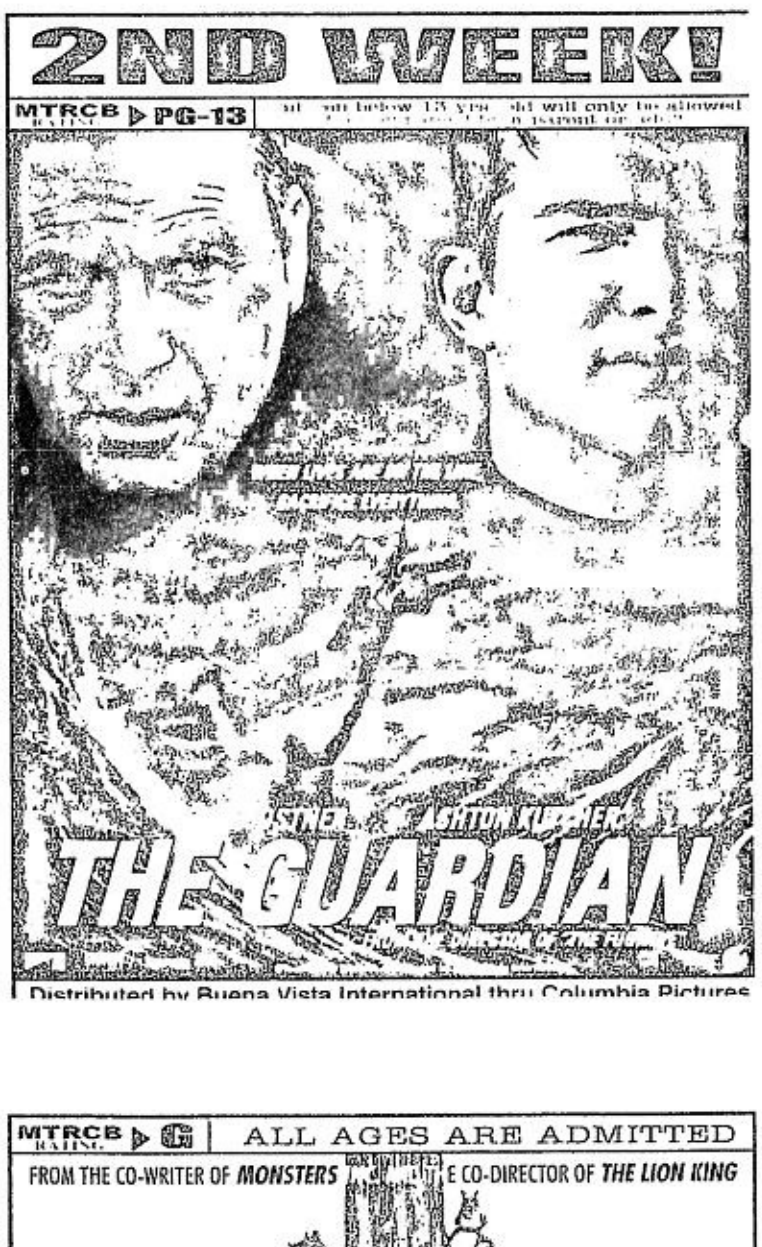
In fact, three of her old winning pieces, "What Kind of Fool Am I?," "And I'm Telling You," and "You'll Never Walk Alone," got much-deserved ovations—because the Songbird reached those songs' extremely high notes with relative ease.

Softer versions

Regine is undoubtedly a great chanteuse who, through the years, has deepened her vocal interpretations with the right emotions. We still like her *birit*, but we like her mellow, softer versions better. A case in point is "The Music of Goodbye," the theme song from the movie, "Out of Africa," which she sang while sitting on the stage floor. For us, the first strains of the song were more haunting and moving than the last bars, which she belted out in melodious albeit screaming fashion.

To us, the most touching part of the show was when Velasquez sang a medley of her winning pieces, while footage of her early years as a struggling singer was shown on the big screen: The video showed an awkward, coy singer, but the woman singing onstage has finally grown into a mature, confident and sophisticated artist.





Horror and hope

From page F1

throughout. Sotto, for his part, is a menacing presence; he effectively exudes doom and gloom everytime he appears on screen.

But, the film belongs to the luminous Locsin, who dangles her vulnerable heart on her sleeve. She turns a glossy but banal thriller with a hackneyed premise into a fairly watchable shocker.

But, sympathetic or head-turning performances can only go so far if the script leaves confounding details that remain unthreshed-out.

To get rid of the pesky killer phone, Joyce smashes it to smithereens. But, it relentlessly reappears to send her messages from the grave. (It's "Groundhog's Day" on Halloween!) So, what does a girl with frayed nerves do? She *shouldn't* answer the phone, correct?

Well, our poor heroine thinks otherwise! You'd think she wouldn't need Darna to figure out that simple exercise in logic. But, then again, who needs logic if the film gets the "A" grade, right?

"World Trade Center"
D: Oliver Stone
S: Nicolas Cage, Maria Bello, Maggie Gyllenhaal

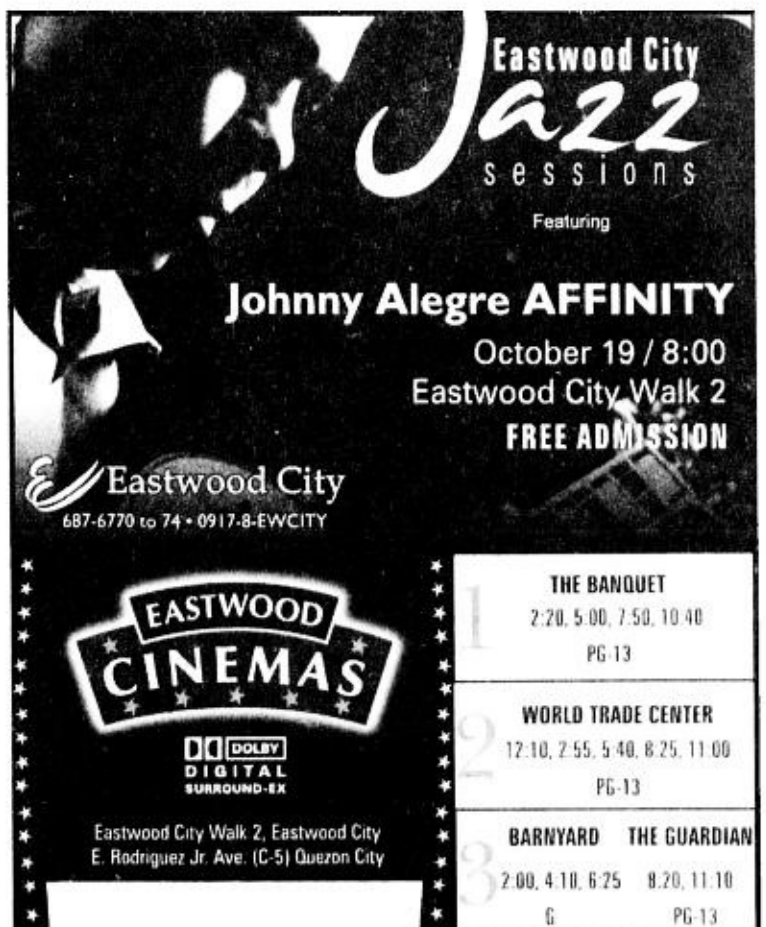
Based on the true story of John McLoughlin (Nicolas Cage) and Will Jimeno (Michael Pena), two of only 20 survivors extracted from Ground Zero after the horrendous terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Oliver Stone's latest feature is as powerful as it is intimate.

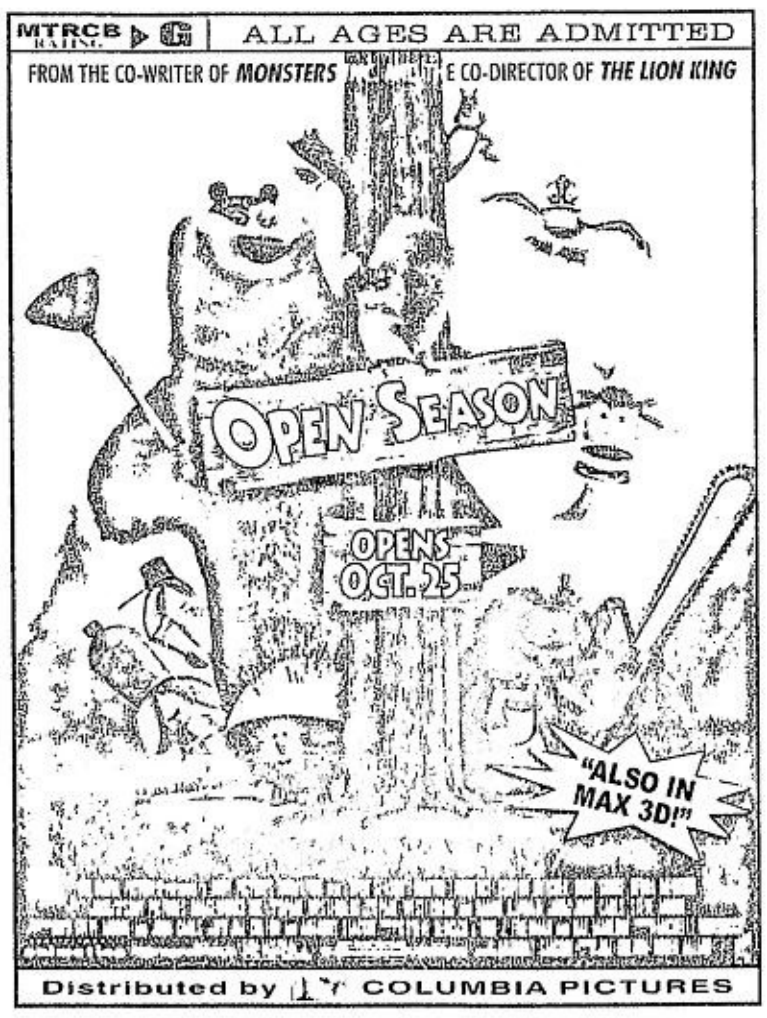
On that fateful day, when hatred, horror and havoc reigned over the world's consciousness, brave men and women risked life and limb to save victims trapped under the rubble of the fallen World Trade Center.

Inspiring and powerful, Stone steers a narrative that focuses on two simple men to tell a tale that involves all of humanity. He recreates lingering images that dispel the notion that man has allegedly become too cynical to care about others.

That day, 2,749 people died at the World Trade Center, but millions more were uplifted by John and Will's inspiring tales of hope and courage.

John was put into a medically-induced coma for six weeks so that his battered body could endure 27 surgeries, but his survival is proof enough that no amount of evil can triumph over the power and resilience of the human spirit.





SATURDAY Special

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Tessie Tomas still ticks and clicks after 25 years

TOMAS. What she's after is nothing less than capturing her subject's heart and soul.

CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Nestor U. Torre

HAS IT REALLY BEEN MORE THAN TWO decades since Tessie Tomas gave up her thriving career in advertising for a more tumultuous and challenging stint in show business?

Tessie swears that time *does* fly, and gratefully prepares to celebrate her 25 years in show business with a "retrospective" show featuring her most popular impersonations.

Humor

Tessie's skill at comedic impersonation is matched locally only by Willie Nepomuceno, so it really should be celebrated with a big anniversary show. Like Willie, Tessie approaches each impersonation with much more than humor and ability to imitate looks, voice and mannerisms going for her.

What she's after is nothing less than capturing her subject's heart and soul, and that's what makes her tick, click—and stick in the public's consciousness.

The Imeldific, *bomba* star Bonnie Buendia and weather-weather girl Amanda Pineda are only three of Tessie's many astute impersonations. The best of the lot? We don't know about you, but our personal favorites are—Imee Marcos and Kris Aquino *together* (cymbals clash)!

We say personal, because the idea for that "joint impersonation" came from yours truly. We once challenged Tessie: Wouldn't it be fun for you to do a conversation between two presidential daughters, Imee and Kris? Hmmm, Tessie noncommitantly mused—and we let it go at that.

Surprise

Imagine our surprise, therefore, when, at Tessie's next show, she upped and did the unique Imee-Kris conversation. As expected, it was extremely difficult to pull off, with Tessie having to change looks and voices every 10 seconds or so!

Even better, it was absolutely insightful, hilarious and entertaining, with Tessie taking full advantage of the concept's creative and topical possibilities.

Now you know why we admire Tessie. She took us up on the difficult challenge we posed to her, and she ran with it—even farther than we had imagined it could go!

We also admire Tessie in her other incarnations—as TV talk show host, because she keeps her programs peppy and entertaining but still sensible and intelligent, and as a sitcom comedienne, especially when she dishes out political satire.

But, we admire her most for having a life *outside* of her show biz existence. Many celebrities are vital only when they are performing, but Tessie's private persona is every bit as interesting as her performances.

Key issues

For instance, do you know that she's an enthusiastic booster of organizations that help the poor and the disenfranchised? On several occasions, she's invited us to meetings where key issues and projects are discussed and boosted, and the glow of commitment on Tessie's face on those occasions is inspiring to behold.

That's why, even if Tessie has cut back of late on most of her show biz commitments, she remains an exciting personality in our book, and a truly stellar presence who deserves to be celebrated on her 25th show biz year—and after.

Helen Cruz sings her swan song

By Behn Cervantes

LOLLIE MARA TEXTED ME that she could pass by for me on her way to Rico Puno's party. The singer was hosting an *asalto* for his manager, Norma Japitana. Lollie said she would drop by after the mass at Mowelfund for Helen Cruz.

There's only one Helen, so the mass was organized by the *Samahan* group (made up of former stars of the '50s and '60s).

Memorial

I requested Lollie to pass for me before going to Mowelfund, since I also wanted to attend the memorial.

It turned out, I knew Helen Cruz (*aka* Pablo Juanillo) years before Nikki Ross, Susan Roces, Delia Razon, Barbara Perez, Boots Anson-Roa, Pempe Rodrigo, Sarah Calvin, Elsa Payumo, Marichu Maceda, Encarnita Abiera, and Boots and Dolor Plata, who were some of the *Samahan* notables at the mass officiated at by Fr. Faraon.

In the '50s, jam sessions were a weekly event. Since I had a number of sisters, these were regular affairs in our home in Pasay.

Among our regular guests were close family friends from Davao like the Oboza and Iñigo brothers, who boogied the night away with Baby Jereza (also a relative from Davao), as well as the Pison sisters from Iloilo. As a precocious kid, I naturally did a few turns on the dance floor.

During one such jam session, the Oboza and Iñigo brothers brought along a friend—Pablo Juanillo. He cut quite a figure as he danced with grace and dexterity.

Paradox

Later on, it was revealed that he was a ballet dancer—who also happened to be an amateur boxer! He was obviously quite a paradox. But Pablo comported himself with class and was never the butt of any joke. He was what he was!

A few years later, it was bandied about that he had opted to become a singer and now called himself Helen Cruz. A short while after he decided to reinvent himself as a blues singer, he became the toast of Dewey blvd. (now, Roxas blvd., of course).

Patrons went to posh clubs to listen to *him* out of mere curiosity, but they came out of those venues admiring *her*. His womanhood was *so* internalized. He wasn't a cheap transvestite, but a person who had made a firm choice that s/he would be a chanteuse of the international kind.

In time, no one bothered with the him/her distinction, because Pablo had, indeed, become Helen. Soon, Helen was performing in American bases and neighboring Oriental capitals.

As always, Helen attracted the curious but was eventually rewarded by fans who admired her demeanor and unique style—she was an original!

In her shows, she conducted herself with style and class, and often titillated her audience. There was no way anyone would treat her less than as a lady, albeit in the manner of Gypsy Rose Lee.

Trademark

Her classy Continental bearing was her trademark. Her singing was heartfelt and original. In his homily, Fr. Faraon pointed out that Helen had made a life-altering choice, and stood by it, *contra mundun*! She never wavered from that decision.

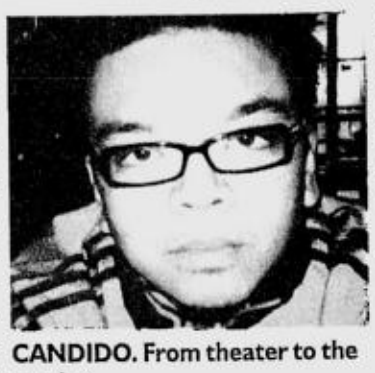
Helen is now a spirit. In that world, there is no gender, no he or she. Now, she unconditionally rests in perpetual peace, with the One who loves us all—regardless of color, creed or gender.

CRUZ. Life-altering choice.

Filmmaker fulfills calling with 'Ang Pamana'

By Rica Arevalo

FILIPINO-CANADIAN DIRECTOR Romeo Candido is in high spirits these days. After his film, "Ang Pamana (The Inheritance)," got a grade of "A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board, he is off to the international premiere of his acclaimed suspense flick at the Hawaii International Film Festival and the Vancouver Asian Film Festival, before it opens here on Nov. 22.



CANDIDO. From theater to the movies.

First feature

Candido started in theater professionally, having performed in "Miss Saigon" in Toronto. He also directed the play, "The Romance of Magno Rubio," in Canada. His travels led him to his first feature, "Lolo's Child," which won the Ishmael Bernal award at the 2002 Cinemanila film festival.

The story of "Ang Pamana" was brewing in Romeo's mind when he first visited the country in 2002.

Folk tales

He shares: "I kept hearing stories about ghosts, *dwende, manananggal, kapre* and *mangkukulam,* but they were just folk tales to me. When I came here, I found out these stories were real for some people. Why copy Japanese and

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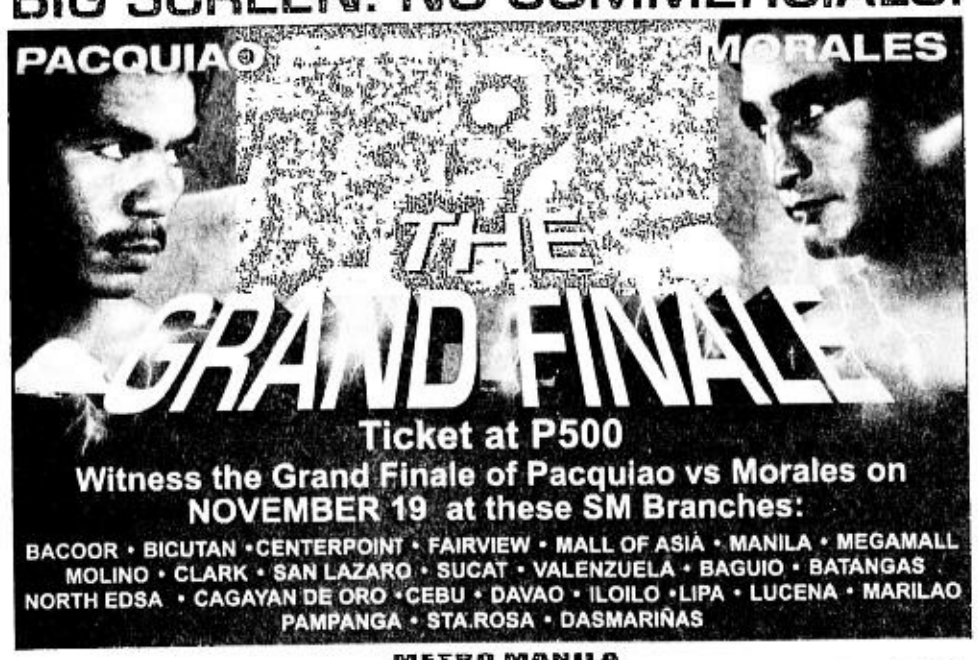

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Priest's story of conversion vivifies hope for sinners

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez

FR. CORAPI. There's hope even for the worst transgressors.

CHRISTIANS WHO WISH TO DEEPen their faith should catch Fr. John Corapi on EWTN. He is one of today's most powerful and influential Catholic preachers.

In his lectures, which air every Friday at 11 p.m. (with replays at 9 a.m. on Sundays), Fr. Corapi often includes his personal testimony—first, as a Green Beret in the Vietnam War in the '70s; then, as an accountant in Las Vegas; a multimillionaire businessman living the fast life, drinking and dining with the rich and famous, until he succumbed to cocaine addiction, then as a homeless bum wandering the streets of Los Angeles.

Pagan

His stories track his life as a pagan for more than 20 years before he enters the priesthood ("Name every sin you can think of, I've done it"). He recounts how an actress in a party in Beverly Hills had introduced him to cocaine, which eventually led him to a psychiatric hospital.

"For over a month, he neither ate nor spoke. The only thing he wanted was to die. For years, he saw no possibility of ever leading a normal life again," recalls a priest-friend in a homily.

His mother asked him to come home. "She told me to say one Hail Mary, pray the rosary and read the Bible everyday," Fr. Corapi relates. Finally, he says, he went to confession and told the priest he thought he was being called to the priesthood. His confessor couldn't believe it—it was 3 p.m., the hour of the Divine Mercy!

Cloistered environment

Fr. Corapi spent two years in the seminary's cloistered environment to discern his future. Now, he holds a doctorate degree in dogmatic theology.

In 1991, at age 44, he was ordained priest by Pope John Paul II at St. Peter's Basilica.

He was drawn to the contemplative life, but his superiors took note of his natural eloquence. So, he returned to the classroom to teach and preach.

His lecture series on the Catholic Church's catechism, "The Teachings of Jesus Christ," has been widely acclaimed, and is used throughout the world as a course in religious education. It focuses on "the love for the Virgin Mary, which leads us to a vibrant relationship with Christ, reverence for the Holy Eucharist, and obedience to the Holy Father."

Messages

The charismatic preacher delivers his messages in a straightforward and humorous style. He tells his audience, "At the end of the day, you and I will be in heaven or hell"—his candor sends shivers down your spine.

Fr. Corapi's lectures answer the age-old question: Why is there evil, pain and suffering? His answer: "God permits evil to draw a greater good from it." Citing the good that came out of the 9/11 attack, he speaks of how happy he was to see jampacked churches on Sundays and long lines at the confessional.

Spiritual roots

He explains the existence of purgatory, the priesthood, the power of the rosary, the spiritual roots of addiction, the Blessed Mother's role in the conversion of Islam, the sacraments and sacramentals as weapons against the devil, and the evils of abortion and artificial contraception.

A recent issue of his online newsletter (newsletter@father-corapi.com) says his simple yet powerful lectures synthesizing the Church's catechism have educated thousands of people. Countless souls have been inspired by his wisdom—from Christians and Jews to Muslims and Buddhists.

Truly, Fr. Corapi's story proves that there's hope even for the worst sinner!

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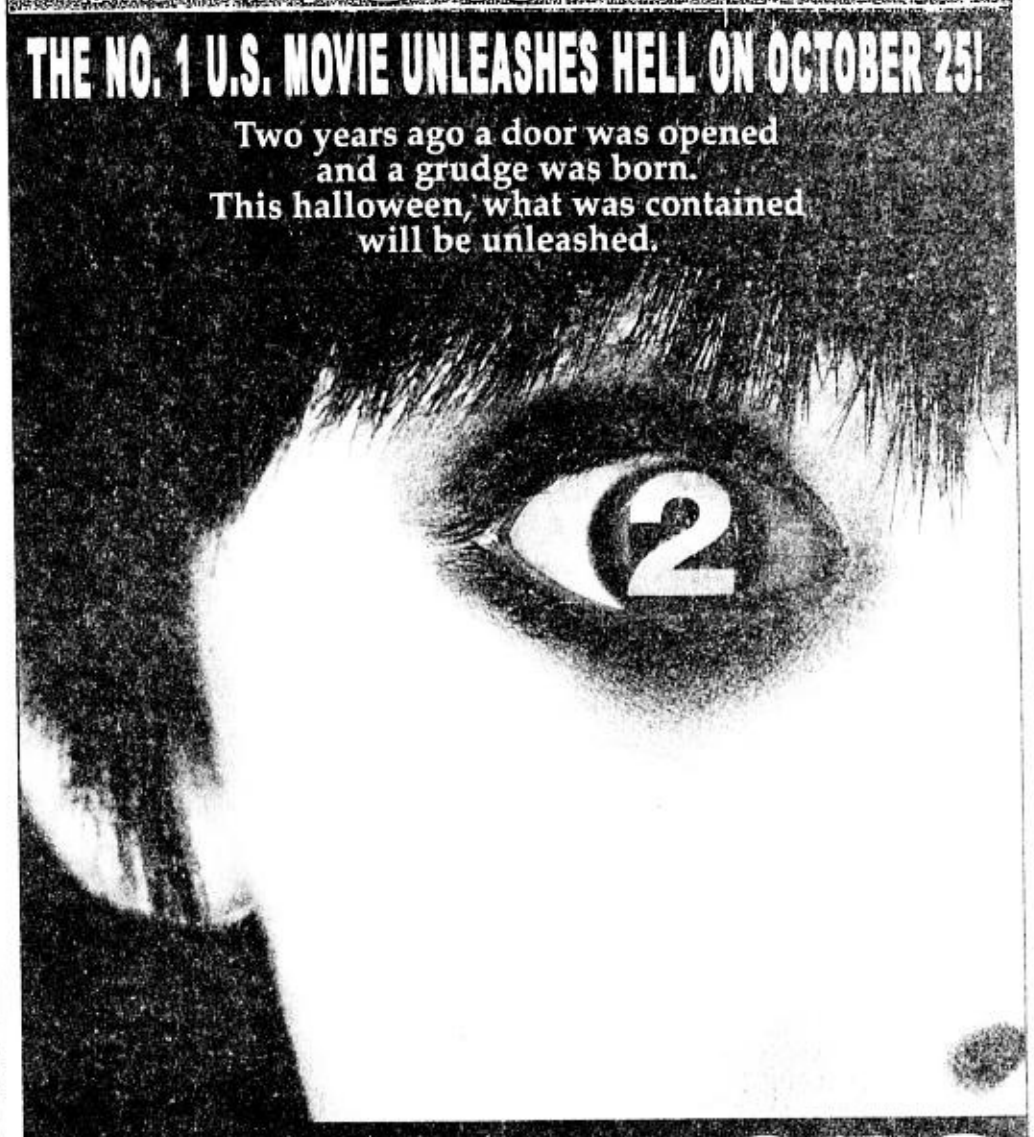

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Goofy satire goes haywire

By Noelani Torre

SIMPSON. She has virtually no lines.

FOR THE FIRST FEW MINutes of the movie, "Employee of the Month," you start feeling that, despite the presence of Jessica Simpson, it just might turn out to be a decent comedy, after all.

As director/co-scriptwriter Greg Coolidge takes us on a tour of the inner workings of a soulless, giant warehouse-type store, you'll see how rich a mine of satire the environment can be.

Midget

However, it's a lode that doesn't get mined, as what could have been a black comedy *a la* "Office Space" or "The Office" turns out to be yet another flatliner stocked with fart jokes, homophobia, and a midget.

Starring stand-up comedian, Dane Cook, and singer-turned-actress Jessica Simpson, the movie is burdened with a weak premise, old and borrowed gags, and insufficient characterization.

Cook plays Super Club box boy, Zack, a slacker in the Ryan Reynolds tradition, who amuses himself by defacing the smirking pictures of Vince (Dax Shepard), the head cashier—and Employee of the Month for 17 straight months! Zack doesn't seem to mind that he's been at the bottom of the Super Club food chain for a decade. But, all that changes upon the arrival of hot new cashier Amy (Simpson).

Incentive

Amy, it is rumored, sleeps only with guys who are Employees of the Month. Vince, who's going to get a promotion and a new car *if* he wins again for the 18th month, sees this as an added incentive.

Zack, however, decides he wants the girl for himself, and vows to mend his ways so he can be named Employee of the Month. Why any mature adult would want to go through a lifestyle change just to get a girl so shallow is befuddling.

The cast also includes Andy Dick, Brian George and Harland Williams, who play Zack's slacker crew; Tim Bagley is the store manager; Danny Woodburn, the corporate big cheese, and Efren Ramirez (of "Napoleon Dynamite"), Vince's deadpan sidekick.

Belying his reputation as an edgy comic, Cook is only mildly charming as the fashionably unshaven Zack. Though he is ostensibly the hero of this movie, he's too bland to make an impact.

Shepard, as the bleached blond, brown-noser Vince, upstages Zack easily. And, when he appears with Jorge (Ramirez), Cook and his manly stubble fade into the background.

Reaction shot

Another blah performance is turned in by Jessica Simpson. She has virtually no lines, and when the camera zooms in on her for a reaction shot, she always looks like a surprised bystander, *not* a top-billed star.

Simpson's two "assets" have more presence than she does, which is probably why the movie's stylists have dressed her up in the lowest-cut tops they could find, discount-store employees' clothing regulations notwithstanding.

It's the script that should be blamed for this, however. Though Coolidge flirted with satire in the beginning, he abandoned the idea after the first few scenes. Instead, he churned out scene after hackneyed scene of people getting beaned, bosses farting, and grandmothers uttering improbable statements, eliciting some laughs—but more yawns.

Finding real strength

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

BY NATURE, WE ARE INSIGNIFIcant living entities. We are but tiny sparks of the Supreme Entity who is all-powerful. In fact, we are quite powerless. A few drops of rain from the sky can send us scurrying for an umbrella. When a hideous being appears, we freak out.

We are weak. But, in modern society, it's not fashionable to think that we are. People take courses to become powerful lords and masters. This is the disease of the materialistic soul. Spiritual strength means becoming free from the disease of wanting to be lord. It means accepting a subservient position as servant of the Supreme, but this requires humility and sincerity.

Humility

These days, people don't look for qualities derived from spiritual strength. For example, many individuals don't consider humility as worthy of respect. Instead, they treat meekness with disdain. People idolize egotistical stars like Madonna. The crowds want to follow in the footsteps of their proud idols.

But, a person who's truly worth emulating is the humble sage, a self-realized soul who is the medium of the Supreme. He surrenders himself to the Supreme, and is thus blessed and protected by God.

What gets in the way of leading a happy life is the desire to be number one—and be respected for it. He who feels independent and strong is not necessarily powerful.

How do we recognize the fully-realized soul? He doesn't fight for authority, position or recognition. Real strength is experienced by a soul who is under the shelter of the Supreme; he is immersed in the strength of the Greatest of All.

Fear and anxiety

Materialistic persons may have powers, but they are actually weak. They live in anxiety; they fear death. But, when a man surrenders to the Supreme, fear vanishe. That is real strength and power.

Real strength is easily available to the humble, sincere soul who surrenders to the Supreme Lord. At His feet, one will find peace and security.

Filmmaker . . .

From page G1

Korean films when our culture is so rich with supernatural elements?"

He believes that he's on the right track. "There is a renaissance happening. Pinoys want to be scared of the things that have haunted them for generations. We haven't had a good *manananggal* movie in a while."

Adjustments

What adjustments did he make when he shot his film here? "First, my Tagalog is *sobrang mali*. I'm used to being a one-man crew, so it was weird coming here and working with a full crew. Working with other Filipinos was such a blessing. I've worked with many Canadians, who resented the fact that I was their director. But here, I didn't have that problem," recounts the 33-year-old filmmaker.

"Ang Pamana" stars Phoemela Baranda, Victor Neri, Tirso Cruz III, Jaclyn Jose, Angel Aquino, Ketchup Eusebio, and Fil-Canadian actors, Darrel Gamotin, Nadine Villasin and Nicco Lorenza Garcia.

Outstanding

"Phoemela's performance will surprise moviegoers, but all the performances are top-notch. The movie has so much heart," he adds.

Is he staying for good? He promptly replies: "I'll go where the wind takes me. We can only react to whatever is thrown our way. The wind led me here—that's all I know for now."

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2 TXT
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4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

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3 THE BANQUET
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1 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
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6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE DEPARTED
8 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
9 BARANG
10 TXT

Blue Wave Mall Antipolo
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1 TXT
2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
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3 TXT
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2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
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4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

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3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

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1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 THE BREED

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(Pandel) tel (044) 795 3320
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Lianas Cinema
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1 POSSESSED BY EVIL
2 THE DEPARTED

Lianas Cinema
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1 BARANG
2 BABASAGING KRISTAL
3 MAPAG BIGAY
4 THE DEPARTED

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1 TILL I MET YOU
2 PERLAS
3 THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL
5 TXT

Fiesta World Mall
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1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT

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1 BARANG
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1 MY FIRST WEDDING • THX — 1:00 3:00 5:00
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER — 11:30 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
3 THE GUARDIAN — 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
4 THE DEPARTED — 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
5 THE BANQUET — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 TXT — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 TILL I MET YOU — 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
8 BARNYARD — 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
9 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE — 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00
10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 526-7000 to 12

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER — 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
2 THE BARNYARD — 12:00 1:35 3:10
TEXAS CHAINSAW — 5:15 6:50 8:25 10:00
5 THE GUARDIAN — 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
3 TXT — 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
6 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
4 TILL I MET YOU — 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50
7 THE BANQUET — 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8183 / 682-8188

1 BARNYARD — 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — 11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
2 TILL I MET YOU — 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
6 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE — 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
3 THE BANQUET — 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
7 THE GUARDIAN — 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER — 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
8 TXT — 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-0281 / 935-0229-30

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT
5 THE BANQUET

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1 THE BREED
2 TILL I MET YOU
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4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

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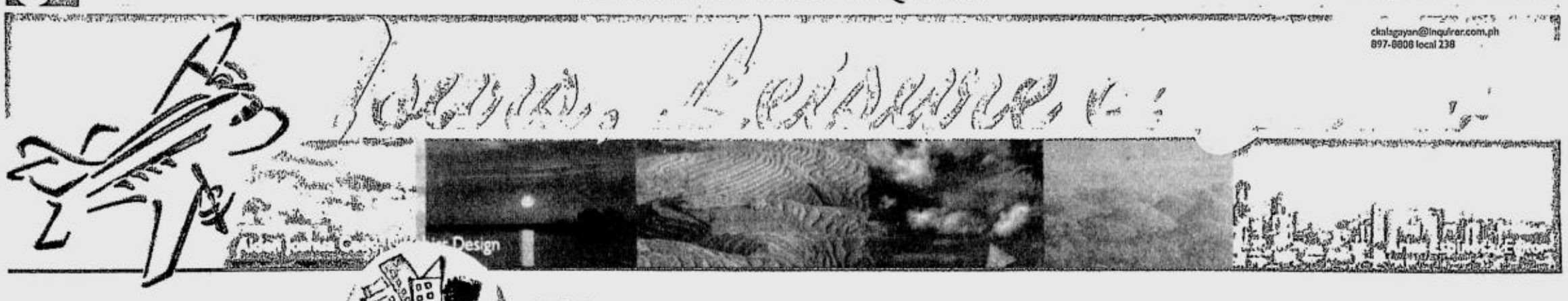

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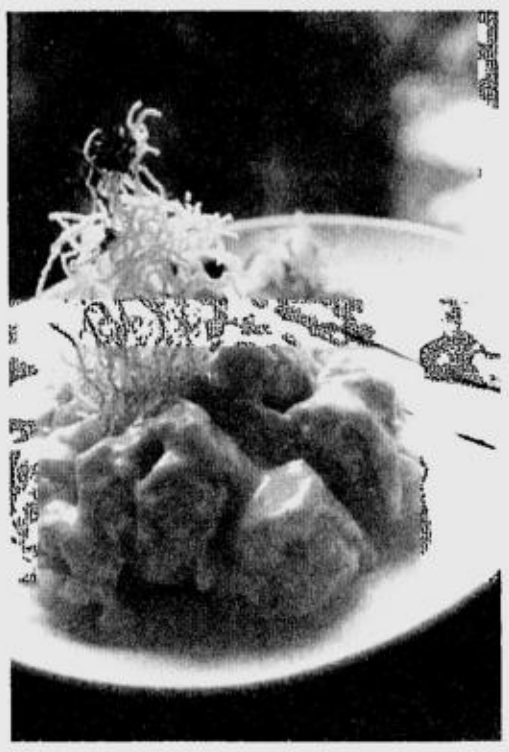
Have your own banquet at Tin Hau

TO TOAST THE FILM "THE BANQUET" STARring Ziyi Zhang, which is now currently showing in local cinema theatres with acclaimed film director Feng Ziaogang of the Academy award-winning movie fame "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon", Mandarin Oriental's premier Chinese restaurant Tin Hau hypes up its six new banquet menus that celebrate the best of Chinese culinary flavours.

Throughout the month of October, Tin Hau diners who will avail of any of the restaurant's six new set menus that start at P988+++ -- Jasmine (six-course menu offered for a minimum of two persons), Lotus, Emperor, Phoenix, Oriental, and Mandarin (eight to ten courses each for a minimum of eight to ten persons), will be presented with specialty gifts from the movie "The Banquet" which include sophisticatedly-crafted Chinese fans and chopsticks, and complimentary movie passes.



Diners also enjoy 40 percent to 70 percent savings on select gourmet dishes when ordered as part of the set menus. Gourmet items such as Peking duck - two ways, is offered at P700 per piece versus the usual price of P2,080; Buddha soup, from P1,500 per person to P700 per person, to name a few. Other gourmet dishes to hanker for are: Abalone whole; Sliced abalone with green vegetables; Whole suckling pig; and Shark's fin soup with shredded chicken.

The set menus feature sumptuous selections, offering diners wide enough choices for various celebrations, including the Four happiness barbecue meat combination platter; Braised sea cucumbers and mushrooms with seasonal vegetables; Marinated baby pigeon in soy sauce; Wok-fried slipper lobsters with spring onion and ginger; Simmered pork ribs in Shao Xing wine served with steamed buns; Chilled almond jelly with lychees; and, Oven-baked mini egg tarts, to name some.

Tin Hau delights diners with its set menus daily for lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and dinner, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. For enquiries and reservations, call Tin Hau at 750-8888 extension 2422/2424.

Lobster Thermidor highlights Seven Corners buffet

CROWNE PLAZA GALLERIA MANILA'S EXECUtive chef Cyrille Soenen, the talent behind Seven Corners's renowned interactive buffet, cooks up delicious new offerings with special highlights every month. For the month of October, a beloved crustacean steals the limelight as lobsters are tastefully presented in the much sought-after dish--Lobster Thermidor. Taste the sweet succulence of lobsters in a rich, creamy sauce for a dining experience that will be hard to forget. Enjoy unlimited servings of Seven Corners' sumptuous buffet highlights for only P100 additional to the regular buffet rate. Seven Corners is Crowne Plaza' Galleria Manila's all-day dining outlet that features interactive show kitchens and talented chefs that entertain guests with their culinary skills. Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila is located at the corner of Ortigas and ADB Avenues. For inquiries and reservations, call 633-7222 local 7220 or e-mail at mnlcp@ichotelsgroup.com.

Pirates' Trove - a Halloween event at Dusit

DISCOVER THE MYTHICAL WORLD OF pirates, sunken ships and hidden treasures as Dusit Hotel Nikko presents "Pirates' Trove - A Halloween Event" on October 28, Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at The Café and Fiesta San Miguel.

Let your kids learn how to decorate a cookie or cupcake with Pancake Plus and Great Food Solutions' Cookie/Cupcake Decorating activity. Have your hair done at the Kids Salon or have that Halloween look through Cambridge's Face Painting or create your own mask with Merit's Mask Making activity.

Join the Best in Halloween Costume Contest and win fabulous prizes from Toy Kingdom, RC Paradise and Enchanted Kingdom. Plus a special prize for the kid who will wear the best Pirates' costume.

Be the first to complete the pirates' list and win in the Scavengers Hunt or see what other more tricks dogs can do in the Animal show.

And of course, Halloween will never be complete without the 'Trick or Treat' around the hotel. Goodies such as Clover Chips, Regent products, Hersheys chocolates, Smiley's and Eggbites cookies plus a copy of your kiddie magazines from Summit like Witch, K-Zone and Disney & Me Magazines will be given away during the 'Trick or Treat'.

To join, simply avail of The Café's sumptuous 'Kiddie Buffet' for only P350 nett per child to get exclusive access to the Halloween activities. You may also avail of the walk-in rate (access to the event only) priced at P250 nett per child. Registration starts at 11 a.m.

'Pirates' Trove' is made possible with the support of Mommy Academy, Dimension's Photography, Ed & Tess Seafood, Milo, Nestea, and Cambridge Child Development Center. For more information, call 867-3333.

The Bellevue goes Ahoy! Halloween

THE BELLEVUE HOTEL GIVES KIDS AND their parents another reason to celebrate Halloween. The hotel presents Ahoy! Halloween, a Halloween celebration featuring pirates, food, fun, magic and games on Oct. 29.

At the Laguna Ballroom, exciting activities await kids of all ages from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Enter a world of make-believe as pirates, sailors, magicians and a whole bunch of kooky characters entertain you at Skull Island and take you on a treasure hunt, giving you a chance to win awesome prizes. The country's greatest magician, Mr. Lou Hilario, will show you tricks and magic that will make you say "wow"! Plus, engage in many thrilling activities such as face painting, glitter tattoos, animal stuffings, kids salon, games, raffles, goodie bags and superb giveaways as only Bellevue can give. Tickets at P350 with take-home gifts, and P275 exclusive of gifts.

Brunch-goers at the Café D' Asie get P100 off every time they pay the adult buffet price on the Ahoy! Halloween party. Land ho! Reserve your tickets now at (632)771-8181.

Pleasure and pampering The Bellevue Hotel way is both luxurious and inexpensive. The Bellevue Hotel's special treat for local residents is designed to give the most of elegance and relaxation at less of the cost. For only P3,500++ per night, enjoy a deluxe room accommodation with buffet breakfast for two. Check in is from Fridays to Sundays. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Chili's celebrates 10th year

CHILI'S TURNS 10 AND TREATS ITS CUSTOMERS TO MORE OF WHAT they love best about Chili's. In addition to staple favorites like Fajitas and Big Mouth Burgers, Chili's will be throwing a Grill Festival beginning October. Choose from four mouth-watering entrees complete with a stack full of sidings, including Grilled Steak with Roasted Herb Jus served with mashed potatoes and veggies. Chili's new Sausage and Spuds doubles the eating delight with two sausages over a bed of caramelized onions served with sweet corn on the cob. Their Steak Skewers include Chili's Pueblo rice and fresh steamed veggies. Last but not least, Chili's Sweet Soy Salmon is a hunk of pink Norwegian Salmon served with Pueblo rice and a medley of fresh steamed veggies. Beginning October Chili's is also coming out with a limited edition 15 percent discount card for its most loyal guests. Simply visit the Chili's outlet nearest you to find out how you can get one. Drop by Chili's today to celebrate their 10th year in the Philippines. Try Grill Festival items or take comfort in old favorites. Or call to inquire about their special party packages. Chili's is located at Missouri cor. Nevada Sts. in Northeast Greenhills (tel. 727-2959); Greenbelt 1 in Ayala Center, Makati (tel. 812-0225); and Tomas Morato in Quezon City (tel. 372-50170).

Celebrate at City Garden Hotel Makati

FOR A TRULY FUN AND MEMORABLE EVENT, COME CELEBRATE YOUR Christmas Party at the City Garden Hotel Makati. With packages for as low as P35,000+, enjoy a variety of choices: from Fiesta Filipino, Western, Fisherman's Fare, City Garden and Continental menus, that are all served buffet style. Packages include one round of iced tea, discount on pre-ordered drinks and LCD rentals, Christmas lights with trimmings and free corkage on some items. For venues, you may choose from its popular Roofdeck Bar & Grill that gives you a fantastic view of the metropolis, or the Le Jardin Restaurant and its function rooms that offer a more intimate and classy ambience. For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, please call its Sales or Banquet offices at (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com .

Have an Enchanted Halloween at the Renaissance Makati City Hotel

THE RENAISSANCE MAKATI CITY HOTEL, MANILA (FORMERLY THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel), offers an unforgettable Halloween holiday treat with the "Enchanted Halloween" special room package from Oct. 27 to Nov. 3. Stay at a plush deluxe room for P3,499+++ (room only) or P4,499+++ (inclusive of buffet breakfast for 2 at the Coffee Shop). A maximum of two adults and two children, with ages 12 or below, may stay in a room. The special discounted room package offer is only for local residents and foreigners with a valid alien certificate of registration. A delightful bonus for families who avail of the "Enchanted Halloween" room package are two (2) free one-day passes for children to Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, valid from Oct. 27 to Nov. 1. For more information or reservations, please call the Renaissance Makati City Hotel, Manila, at 811-6888.

Gardenia and Lady's Choice combo

ENJOYING THE PERFECT SNACK IS A BREEZE, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU have the best products in your pantry, like Gardenia Garlic Toast and Lady's Choice Sandwich Spread, classic mealtime items that continue to delight Filipinos with their unique taste and quality. Now, Gardenia and Lady's Choice gives you more reasons to make merienda time more enjoyable! From now until Oct. 31, Luzon and Visayas residents can enjoy, at no cost, Gardenia Garlic Toast for every purchase of Lady's Choice sandwich spread. This collaborative work between Gardenia and Lady's Choice will surely delight consumers who have grown accustomed to the superior quality that is inherent in all Gardenia and Lady's Choice products. On the other hand, Lady's Choice is a product of Unilever, one of the world's leading food companies. Lady's Choice was created by chefs and food experts on various tastes and flavors from around the world, making Lady's Choice a classic favorite. With Gardenia Garlic Toast and Lady's Choice Sandwich Spread, snack time certainly becomes so much more delicious.

PROPERTY BREAKTHROUGHS

Crown Asia. Leads the pack with one on-track vista development after another.

Top: Hollywood scale signage now a show stopper attraction in Sta. Rosa. ***Bottom***: MURANO model house ablaze with lights in VALENZA. Sta. Rosa.

True to form for over a decade

While the boom of the local housing industry is welcome news to house hunters everywhere, residential developments. more often than not, offer no more than glossy images or model units only a Tom Cruise or an Angelina Jolie can afford. After one project, it's a downhill slide to the next.

True, other "affordable" options abound but more often than not, these are off-track with grandiose images of interiors that are clearly super luxury, when IKEA type of furnishings would be more apropos. CrownAsia has consistently been true to its form. Not opulence meant for a trophy home nor the down to earth frugality expected for a starter home.

Your Home of Choice

CrownAsia proudly banners its mantra "Your home of choice" for home planners that are true to their realities. A home to showcase their practicality and their passion for style. They don't have to look into starter home projects nor aspire for luxury homes that can strain their financial boundaries. Nor do the homes have to pay the penalty of a significant location.

Transformational Force

CrownAsia has the reputation to transform the area where it decides to develop a project. Immediately bringing into the chosen vicinity a strong sense of style, love and respect for environment and the practicality for cost-saving amenities and support establishments.

CrownAsia project planners ardently toil to input "wow" features whenever and wherever possible. This is clearly seen in CrownAsia's major project divisions: GentleSkylines for vertical developments. SignatureHomes for picturesque communities and ProudHometowns for townships ready to blossom into veritable cities.

While "luxury," "master planning," "opulent" and "affordable" are rapidly becoming lip-service adjectives in today's housing industry, only CrownAsia is steadfast in its creative forte which clearly sets it apart.

Silk flags fly east and south of Manila to herald new stand-out projects

CrownAsia continues to unveil one picture-pretty village after another.

In the southern corridor of mega Manila, CrownAsia recently rolled out the stunning SignatureHomes edition dubbed as **VALENZA**. A show stopper development. Truly a city of lights (in the evening, one can see the distant lights of Tagaytay ridge.") And from Tagaytay ridge, one can see the dazzling lights of VALENZA.

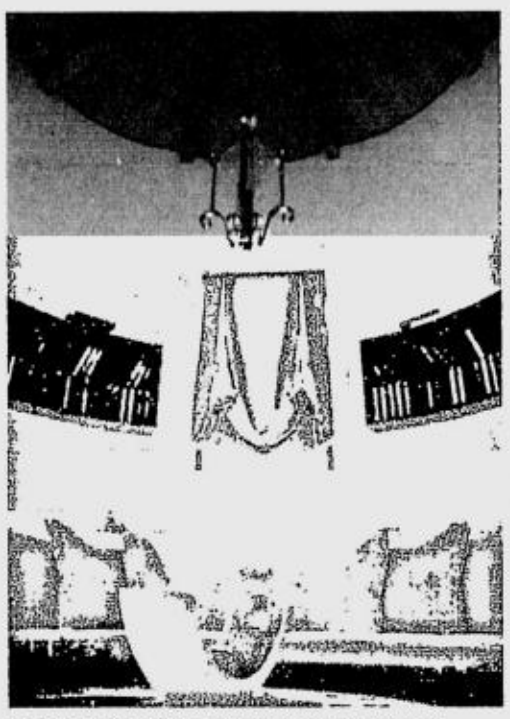
En route to Tagaytay on the Sta. Rosa road, VALENZA will literally stop you in your tracks with beauty. "So beautiful, you'll stop and decide to live here" as one of the flyers proudly proclaims. The newly inaugurated MURANO model unit has a hallmark cupola as a signature architectural feature. It is designed with vista windows and balconies to maximize the view. And it, in turn, makes the home a view in itself.

Further towards upcoming style epicenter Daang Hari-Alabang, **PONTICELLI**, another SignatureHomes picture-pretty village has been unveiled. Perched on a gracious hill, PONTICELLI gently whispers its passion for privacy and reassuring security. A mango glen has been made into a central amenity park. The model homes have been completed with a unique design charm.

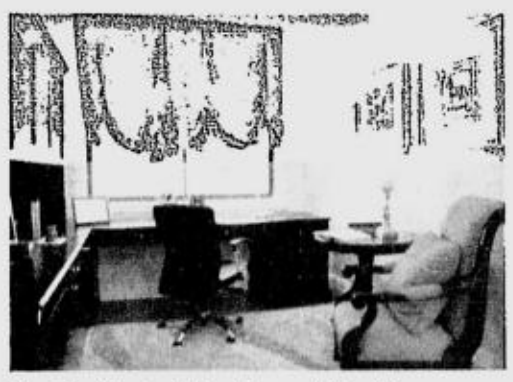
Soon to launch by the coastal road in Bacoor, Cavite is **ONE ALAMO**, a charming multi-dimensional development combining single detached homes, townhomes, low-rise condos and a commercial complex executed in a Neo-Victorian San Francisco design attitude.

In the scenic hills of Antipolo, Crown Asia is proudly the major builder of homes, which all began with the first themed development **COTTONWOODS**, followed by **MAIA ALTA** and **WOODBERRY**. And now **MILLE LUCE**, "your home between the stars and the city lights" joins this proud group. MILLE LUCE is the latest hilltop village development that brings unequalled grace to deserve the distinction — SignatureHomes. From the highest point, one can see the breathtaking Laguna de Bay and the vista of mega Manila. **CASCADES**, is another scenic option to thrill home planners that have their hearts set on options east of Manila.

Soon to launch in Pasig is **SANREMO**, an inner city design thesis with an Italian theme, composed of single detached and townhomes spread over 6 hectares.



Valenza, interior of the cupola ceilinged family room adds high drama.

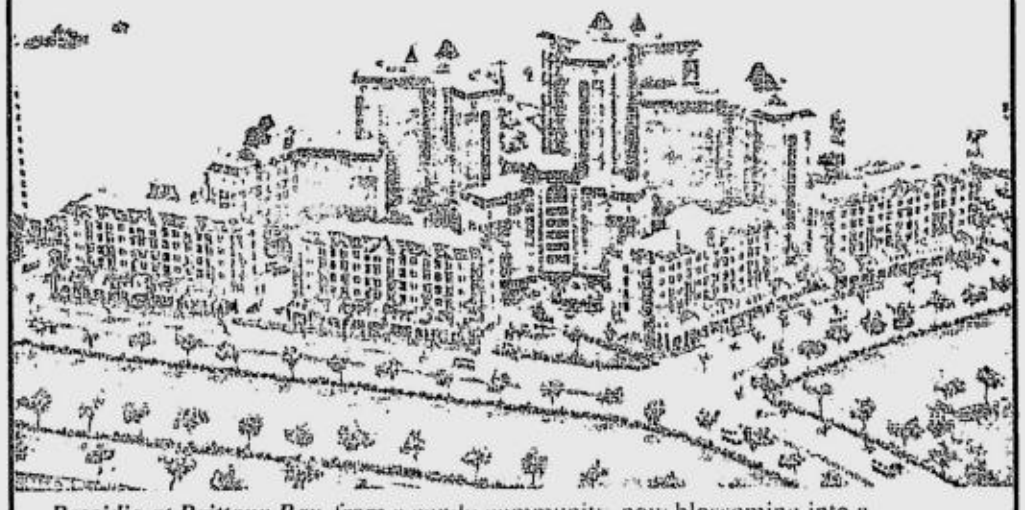


Ponticelli, study looking out into the hilltop amenity park.

Woodberry, charming homes across the genteel grounds of Assumption Antipolo.

Mille Luce, huge windows to capitalize the jaw dropping views of mega Manila.

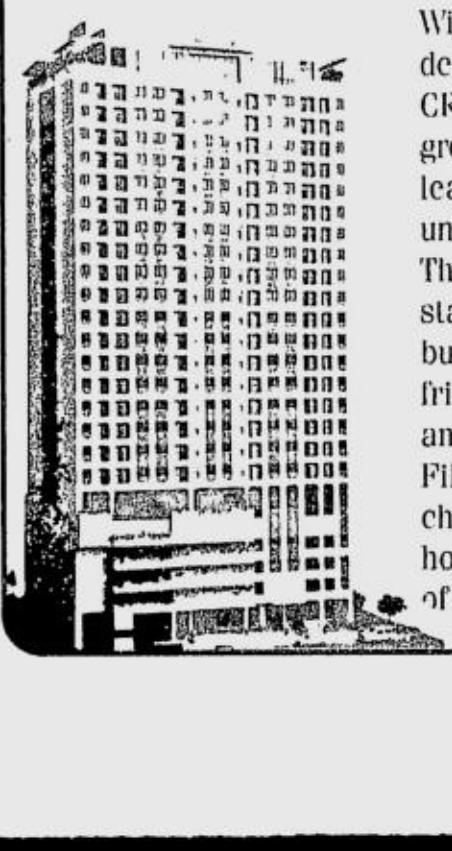
CrownAsia high rises on the rise



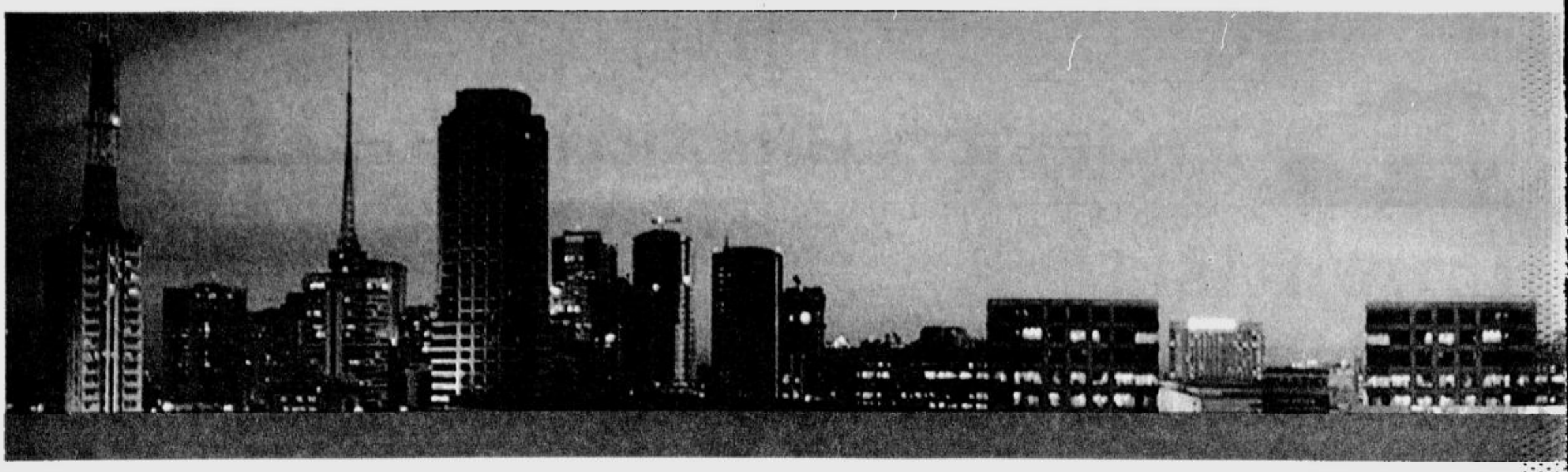
Presidio at Brittany Bay, from a condo community, now blossoming into a tower township and very soon a veritable city by Laguna de Bay.

Sky-bound Crown Towers

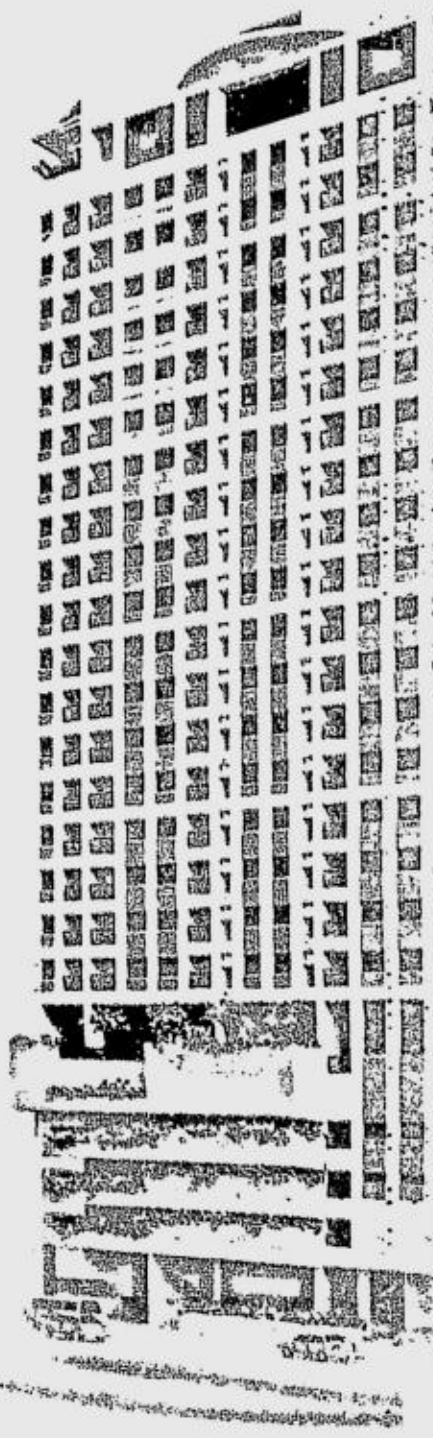
CrownAsia hits the ground running in the arena of vertical development, first with PRESIDIO at Brittany Bay. PRESIDIO, the first of the GentleSkylines is a rapidly rising high-rise community of 16 towers situated by the shores of Laguna de Bay. Wielding its transformative powers, a humble heath adjacent up-market Posadas Village is now an enclave of scenic beauty and the home of choice of local and overseas Filipinos. Just 20 minutes away from Makati, PRESIDIO will be accessible by road and train, not to mention the C6 which is re-shaping the shoreline of Laguna de Bay into a major roadway.

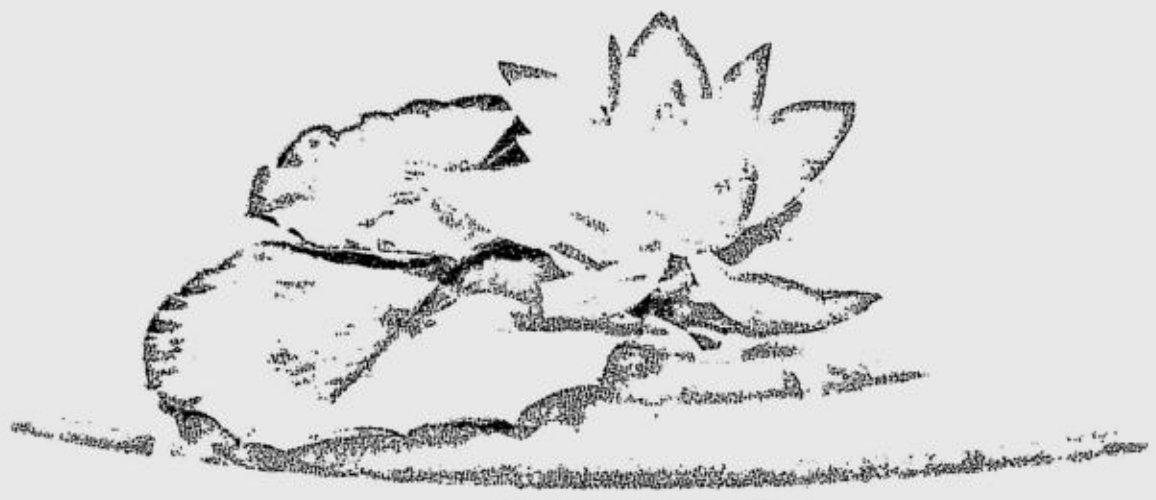


With a dedicated thrust to inner city development, CrownAsia launched CROWN TOWER University Belt. The group's entry into Manila's premiere learning community rocked the university belt with style and sensibility. The 25-storey tower has set new standards for the area, not only in looks but in an amazing scheme that's family-friendly. No downpayment. No interest and low monthly amortizations. Now, Filipino families with school bound children can elect to make their new home in a learning community instead of a leisure or commercial location.



Radiating ripples
of style,
distinction and sensibility
throughout each community where
a Crown tower rises.

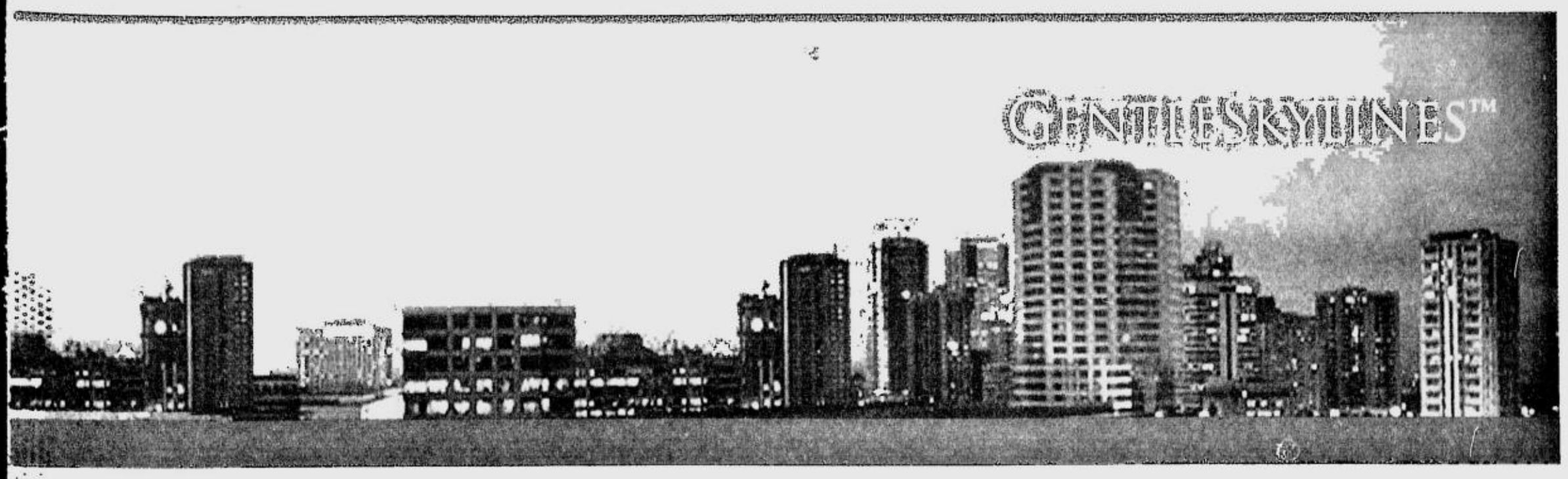




CROWN

Now rising to set new
premier learni

CrownAsia's transformative force radiates welcome influences from each project site signature architectural styles, landscaping and practical amenities. But most importantly, CrownAsia creates family friendly terms and packages that make a home of choice an attainable reality.



CROWN

Presidio

at BrittanyBay

Transforming Laguna de Bay into a gracious inner city 16-tower community.

TOWER

UNIVERSITY BELT

standards in Manila's
ng community

CROWNASIA

You home of choice

For property preview: 718-3400 or 02 / 718-3468 / 634-9001 or 02 ■ visit www.crownasia.com.ph

Crown Tower University Belt

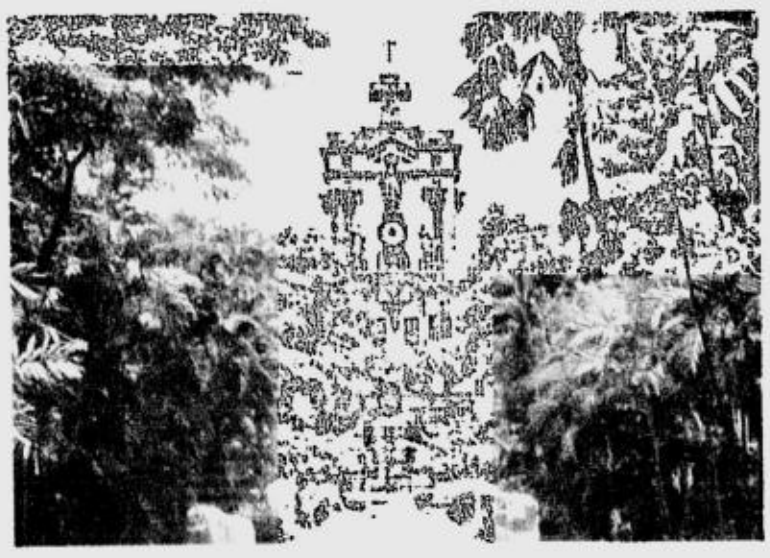
Raising the bar of excellence in Manila's premier learning community

CrownAsia once again wields its transformative savvy by creating a breakthrough standard for academe residences with unbeatable investment values and amenities.

More than just a high-rise residence, CrownAsia meets the needs of students and educators by providing a cyber library, event plazas, sun deck and gardens, a swimming pool and a roof deck. Likewise, support amenities, laundromat, internet café and a fitness gym to be operated by concessionaires.

Artistry in the skies, street-wise practicality.

In the midst of old and obsolete dormitories, Crown Tower University Belt will be a stand out landmark. A refreshing change in design attitude and an intelligent cost-saving solution. Situated just a few steps away from Espana, UST, FEU and UE are just a few minutes on foot. CrownAsia brought in the most sought-after design team, Recio+Casas to create a design thesis that beats other developments in the area in terms of function and aesthetics. The broad strokes of AIR, LIGHT and SPACE are skillfully executed in the design. The roof top gives an airy vista of the city. The podium deck is another airy space for the pool and social gatherings.



Savings in the long run, unbeatable terms.

CrownAsia worked out the math on the realities of Filipino families. And the savings in escalating room and board costs, daily transportation costs and precious time consumed in commuting, all deliver benefits too good to pass up.

Amazing Entry Investment Terms: No Down Payment, Interest Free Terms, Low Monthly Amortizations.

What can be more family-friendly than these terms? Hold off any decision for a new home until you visit our sales office.

The unbeatable choice of living in a learning community.

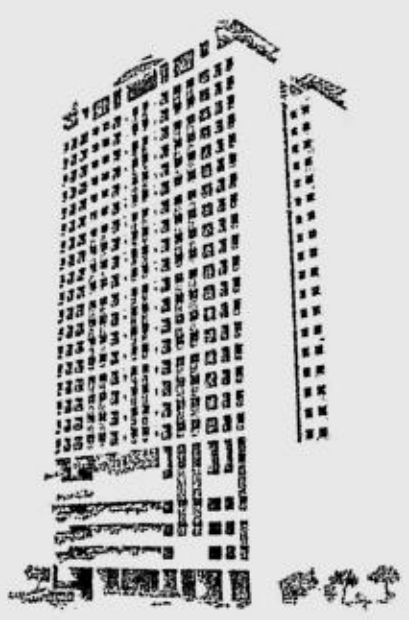
Now Filipino families with young schoolbound children can opt to settle in a learning community instead of a home near a commercial complex. Here, it will be quiet and practical. Spending is not lifestyle related, but more practical and educaiton centered. More savings, better values taught to children.

Another trophy high-rise development for CrownAsia.

CrownAsia's curriculum vitae for vertical development is outstanding with other high-rise projects, noteworthy, Presidio at Brittany Bay, a cluster development of 16 towers and Presidio New Manila, another cluster development, plus Makati developments soon to be launched.

Call for a presentation and see for yourself how CrownAsia will meet your requirements with flying colors.

GENTLESKYLINES™



CROWN TOWER
UNIVERSITY BELT

Crown Tower University Belt. Now rising in the center of the country's premier learning community.

Now, you can combine your family's home investment plans with your children's future university needs. Or invest in university housing where the demand keeps growing every year.

Winning development thrusts.

Location, meeting the market needs and matching all these with creativity and style. Crown Tower sets new standrards for the whole university belt area with sensible amenities.

Values that go beyond real estate profits.

Leanring communities are quiet for studies, family's costs like transportation and meals are kept lower. Children are home earlier to pursue other interests like sports. Leisure communities encourage lifestyle spending which families with school bound children can very well do without.

Amazing entry level investment scheme

No down payment, zero interest, low monthly amortization. Schedule a presentation today and see how easy it is to make your home of choice an attainable reality.

CrownAsia. Where the Filipino heart is most at home.

We know young Filipino families have their hearts set on quality education for their children. CrownAsia now adds a new dimension to their home of choice.

A joint venture of CROWNASIA
and Magister Suites I Corporation

CROWNASIA
Your home of choice.

For property preview: 718-3400 or 02
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visit www.crownasia.com.ph

VISIT OUR SALES CENTER & MODEL UNIT AT THE SITE.

For announcement purposes only.